

agreement concerns to legislators

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - 11:46 am NEW YORK
By MATT LINDSEY

CANTON -- Members of the Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation attended a St. Lawrence County Legislature meeting Monday to dispute claims made by an environmental health scientist and business developer relating to proposed wind turbines.

Four community members, Will Dailey, Lucia Dailey, Gary Snell and Lori Witherell all spoke at the meeting during a public comment period disputing claims made by Avangrid associates Christopher Ollson, an environmental health scientist, and Scott McDonald, a business developer.

Ollson and McDonald made the presentation to legislators March 27.

Avangrid, a subsidiary of Iberdrola, is heading the North Ridge Wind Farm which calls for about 40 wind towers, about 500 feet high, to be constructed on land in Hopkinton and Parishville.

The concerned citizens group opposes claims made that property values do not decrease when a wind farm moves into an area. They also say Avangrid employees have had contact with school and town officials relating to Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) contracts versus taxes. Other concerns were clauses contained in lease agreements and wind power taking money away from the Robert Moses Power Dam.

Will Dailey expressed concerns about a confidentiality clause and right to terminate clause he read in a lease between a landowner and Avangrid.

He told legislators that should landowners wish to complain publicly about issues (such as noise, visual impairment or flickering the light), that they (landowners) would have to

submit complaints directly to Avangrid before it could be printed for the public to see.

"You should read the lease agreements – they are a hoot," Dailey said in an interview with North Country This Week April 5. His wife, Lucia, was also interviewed.

He says the agreements do not allow landowners to terminate their lease, but includes the option for the wind company to do so.

Mr. Dailey says an Amish friend of his bought land a few years ago that had a lease agreement. The Amish man was allegedly told by an Avangrid representative that he could in fact get out of the agreement, a contradiction of what his agreement states.

"I don't know if all of these leases are the same," Mr. Dailey said. "Neighbors should be getting together to discuss the leases and I am not sure that is happening."

Mr. Dailey's wife, Lucia, says claims that wind farms do not decrease property values are false.

"They say there is no decrease – but when property values are going up everywhere else and remaining the same near wind farms, that shows property values decrease near wind farms," she said. So although property values may not decrease on paper, with other property values rising in other parts of the state, land near wind farms does not increase in value at the same rate, according to studies the Daileys have read.

The Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation are receiving help from other towns, including Vermont, Massachusetts and across the state, who have challenged wind farms or who are facing the same situation now.

"Other communities (that have wind farms) are coming to us with information about the health effects from the turbines," Mrs. Dailey said. "A couple in Vermont were forced to abandon their home because they couldn't stand them anymore."

She also said people from nearby Chateaugay have approached the group warning them about property values. The couple claims that they have been unable to sell their home for anything close to what they put into it, all because of wind turbines in the area..

Mrs. Dailey says that Avangrid officials have informally contacted local officials about PILOTS. According to Mrs. Dailey, Avangrid representatives stated they have not had contact with local officials. She says Parishville Town Supervisor Rodney Votra said he was approached about PILOTS. He allegedly made the comment at a town hall meeting.

"We are pretty sure, ~~5~~ 0 Avangrid has had private, individual meetings with the superintendent and the Hopkinton town supervisor, she said.

Mrs. Dailey said she believes school and town officials saw PILOTS as free money if the project does happen. She says information they've gathered shows that PILOTS would not provide the same financial gain for the area as taxes would.

Staying with the financial impact on the region, Mrs. Dailey says wind turbines would have an impact on the Robert Moses hydropower dam in Massena.

Mrs. Dailey says she was going door-to-door discussing wind power and a power worker told her the power dam would have to cut back its production so it would not overload the grid.

She says studies have shown that wind turbines generally produce just 20 to 25 percent of their capacity. "It is unreliable and not that efficient." "Why take on a project that pays taxes to basically offer a subsidy to the wind company," Dailey asked.

Mr. Dailey said it was "nice of the legislators to put up with the public coming to meetings." "I am hopeful they (legislators) will bring themselves up to speed."

<http://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2017/04/06/citizens-oppose-wind-farm-project/>

Citizens oppose wind farm project

Apr 6, 2017

Anna Boettcher Staff Writer MINNESOTA

BLUE EARTH — Representatives of the Coalition for Rural Property Rights spoke before the Faribault County Commission this week, presenting opposition to a proposed industrial wind energy installation in the county. Citizens packed the commissioners room at the Courthouse to voice their concerns regarding placement of wind turbines.

The current setback for non-participating residences is 1,000 feet. The average rotor diameter of wind energy turbines has been steadily increasing, leading many citizens to believe the current setback requirement is not enough to protect non-participating lands and residences.

The Coalition requested that the board consider increasing setbacks from non-participating dwellings to 10 times the rotor diameter of the wind turbine to be installed, which is comparable to the ordinance adopted in Goodhue County.

Many of these Faribault County residents believe the placement of the wind turbines is infringing on their rights. Community members discussed several points regarding the wind turbine placement, including limitations on hunting rights, firearm use, agricultural prosperity and residents' quality of life. They believe large-scale wind turbines can cause harm to people in the form of loss of enjoyment of property through added noise, shadow flicker and a complete change to their environment, which is almost completely out of their control. Most object to an object, roughly the size of a Boeing 747, over 400 feet in the air constantly moving within 1,000 to 1,500 feet of them, said one resident.

Carolyn Zierke offered her perspective on the proposed wind turbines:

"By allowing growers to protect their crops during the most important time in a plant's life, it means, for you as a county, an additional local revenue of over \$3.8 billion by not placing 120 turbines on productive farmland ... Why are counties overlaying an industrial zone on top of a productive agricultural zone? This county has the highest producing ground in the state ... Don't compromise the soil structure that these growers have built in this county, or the investment in tile to properly drain these productive crops that we grow, because the revenue generated from the state's highest-producing county has a rippling effect on the community."

Dan Warner also weighed in.

"Don't get mesmerized by the apple," he said. "The apple is money. These [wind turbines] are money. Please don't let the illusion of big money, generated by these big machines, cloud your judgment in protecting the residents who are forced to live around these big machines. These same people, and these same families, who populate our schools and shop in our small towns are the ones who are trying to carve out a life out there. These are the same families that have elected you to protect them. Please don't bite the apple."

Shanelle Montana, project developer for the Rose Lake Wind Project in Faribault County, spoke on behalf of EDF and its proposed project, defending the company and its standards. Montana said the company encourages this type of conversation, hoping the citizens' questions were answered.

Monday, April 10, 2017

Conservation Groups Sue Over Proposed Turbine, OPSB Rejects Application For Offshore Wind Farm

A pair of bird conservation groups is suing the Ohio Air National Guard to halt the proposed construction of a wind turbine near Lake Erie.

The American Bird Conservancy and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory previously filed notices they intended to sue last year.

The complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleges the project will violate the Endangered Species, Migratory Bird Treaty, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection, and the National Environmental Policy acts.

Named as defendants are U.S. Air Force Acting Secretary Lisa Disbrow, OANG Col. Andy Stephan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Jim Kurth, and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The groups are requesting the court force the government to prepare a new biological opinion, obtain new permitting under the MBTA and BGEPA laws and prepare a new environmental impact statement.

The filing argues the project will "impair the interest of" the groups and individuals who observe, study, enjoy and benefit from local birds. The project, they argue, "will be built by killing, harassing or otherwise taking birds in this unique migratory area."

The groups contend that an environmental assessment from the government shows the adverse impact the project is expected to have. That assessment states one of the project's purposes as studying the impact of wind energy on factors including the deaths of birds and bats as the result of such turbines.

"In short, the stated purpose of the project is to observe how many birds (and bats) - including numerous federally protected species - the turbine will kill by being placed in a crucial migratory pathway and globally important bird area so that ANG can then 'make recommendations,'" the lawsuit reads.

The OANG previously determined the project would not a "significant impact" on the natural environment, according to a 2016 study.

Icebreaker: The Ohio Power Siting Board rejected the application of an unrelated project to construct an offshore windfarm in Lake Erie, saying the application lacked sufficient information.

The six-turbine, 20 megawatt wind farm would be situated eight miles off the Cleveland coast and would mark the first freshwater wind farm in the nation.

But in a letter from OSPB Chairman Asim Haque, the board informed project members that the group's Feb. 1 application and its supplemental application March 13 failed to comply with administrative code.

That's because the applicants referred to two memorandums of understanding that were not included in the application materials. They include agreements on monitoring the project's impact on both fisheries and other aquatic resources and on birds and bats. (Docket)

"At such time as the applicant files in this proceeding copies of these two MOUs, signed by at least the applicant and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, staff will revisit its compliance determination," Mr. Haque wrote.

Applicants are prohibited from commencing construction on any part of the facility without a certificate from the board.

Opponents, including the aforementioned BSBO and ABC, have voiced concerns about the impact on wildlife and argued the project could be a stepping stone to thousands of turbines constructed on the lake.

"The combined scale of U.S. and Canadian wind aspirations for Lake Erie is at least 2,700 turbines, or about 9,300 MW," the groups said in comments. "It is therefore essential that every effort be made by LEEDCo to prepare a fundamentally sound, quantitative risk assessment of mortality to bird and bat species known to be in the area, especially protected species covered by the Endangered

Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and their Canadian equivalents."

But proponents, including Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), say the project will drive economic and environmental investment in the region.

"Ultimately, Icebreaker could position Cleveland as a central North American hub for the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry," Sen. Dolan wrote in public testimony filed last month.

http://www.cleveland.com/neobirding/index.ssf/2017/03/birding_groups_sue_ohio_air_na.html

Birding groups sue Ohio Air National Guard to block wind-turbine at Camp Perry

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory joined the American Bird Conservancy on Monday in a federal lawsuit to block construction of a wind turbine at Camp Perry due to fears it would destroy migrating birds and bats. *(Photo courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory)*

By James F. McCarty The Plain Dealer
on March 27, 2017 at 4:35 PM

WASHINGTON, D.C. - State and national birding groups sued the Ohio Air National Guard on Monday, asking a federal court to block construction of a large wind turbine at Camp Perry near Lake Erie.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory, based in Oak Harbor in Ottawa County, suspects the proposed wind turbine would violate the Endangered Species Act, posing as a lethal bird-killing machine for bald eagles and migrating songbirds and bats.

BSBO joined with the American Bird Conservancy to file the 31-page lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington.

A spokeswoman for the Ohio Air National Guard declined to comment.

"We're not aware of the lawsuit, and would not be able to comment on any litigation," said Stephanie Beougher of the Adjutant General's Department.

Michael Hutchins, director of ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Energy Program, called the National Guard turbine project a "disaster," and "perhaps the worst possible place for wind energy development."

The planned construction site is located less than a mile from Lake Erie and situated in one of the largest confluences of migratory birds and bats in the world, Hutchins said. In addition to numerous bald eagle nests, the lakeshore in that area provides passage for endangered species such as Kirtland's warbler and piping plover.

"We have many peer-reviewed studies documenting the impact of wind energy on birds and bats," said Kimberly Kaufman, BSBO's executive director. "And yet it takes a lawsuit to protect one of the most important migratory bird stopover habitats in the Western Hemisphere."

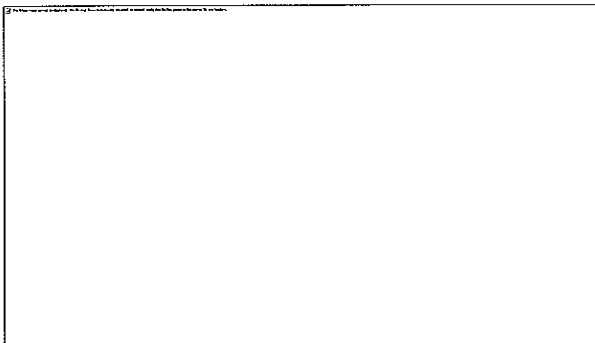
The birding groups are asking the court to halt the project until the National Guard obtains the proper permits and conducts environmental impact assessments required by the Endangered Species Act.

In 2014, the BSBO and Bird Conservancy successfully halted construction of the 600-kilowatt wind turbine after determining the Air National Guard had failed to obtain the proper certifications.

The National Guard subsequently completed an environmental assessment and obtained permission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which the BSBO and Conservancy maintain are inadequate. The birding groups have cited a new radar study that shows vast numbers of migratory birds and bats move through the area, flying at altitudes that would bring them within the 198-foot rotor-swept zone of the Camp Perry turbine.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/>

Commentary: Wind turbines around the Great Lakes? A terrible idea for birds, bats



Wind Power Jens
Dresling / AP
Wind turbines at
Flakfortet near
Copenhagen.

Michael Hutchins
The rush is on to build
scores of large,

commercial wind energy facilities in and around the Great Lakes, in Canada and the United States. From the proposed Galloo Island and Lighthouse projects in New York to Camp

Perry and Icebreaker in Ohio and Amherst Island and White Pines in Ontario, developers are looking to flood the region with renewable energy. But at what cost?

Many see renewable energy, including wind energy, as an important way to cut our dependence on fossil fuels and address global climate change. But this "green" revolution has a dark side. Collisions with wind turbines are killing hundreds of thousands of birds and bats annually. When you include collisions and electrocutions at associated power lines and towers, the number of birds killed climbs into the tens of millions.

These impacts are likely to grow along with the number of turbines and power lines constructed, a number that is increasing rapidly. American Bird Conservancy estimates that by 2050, when wind energy is projected to produce 35 percent of our electrical energy, as many as 5 million birds per year could be killed by turbines in the United States alone.

From the perspective of wildlife conservation, the Great Lakes are one of the worst possible places to put wind energy. During spring and fall, these large freshwater lakes pose a significant barrier to birds and bats during their annual migration to and from the boreal forests of Canada where they breed. Vast numbers of birds and bats, many of which migrate at night, gather along the shorelines and eventually fly along or over the lakes. Advanced radar studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Michigan, Ohio and New York have all confirmed the danger that large-scale wind energy development poses to migratory birds and bats in the region.

The Great Lakes themselves are also an important habitat for water birds. Lake Erie was recently designated a Globally Important Bird Area because of the large numbers of water birds that use the lake. Large-scale commercial wind turbines have the potential to threaten or displace them.

Only through proper risk assessment, siting and post-construction monitoring can such conflicts with wildlife be avoided or contained. At present, regulations governing

siting are weak at best. Paid consultants to the wind industry conduct the risk assessments and also collect and report post-construction mortality data — a direct conflict of interest. Some companies have sued to keep their data secret, making public oversight difficult if not impossible.

If any area in the United States and Canada should be avoided for wind energy development, it is the Great Lakes region, one of the world's largest confluences of migratory birds and bats. The cumulative impact of the many existing and planned projects in the region could be substantial and cannot be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We must make clean energy a priority, but how we do it is important. Our ecologically and economically important birds and bats should not be collateral damage in our battle against climate change.

Michael Hutchins is director of the American Bird Conservancy's Bird-Smart Wind Energy campaign.

Statehouse News
April 7, 2017

New Member Profile: Riedel To Pursue Decentralized Government, Competitive Economy

Craig Riedel had longer than most freshman lawmakers to prepare for his first day in the Ohio House - something he says he didn't take for granted.

The Defiance Republican toppled incumbent Tony Burkley in the March 2016 primary and, with no Democratic challenger, got a free pass in the general election. He used the extra time to form relationships with his new constituents and use their feedback to hone his legislative agenda, he said.

"It was very, very beneficial for me to have that time where instead of having to worry about running in the November general election I was able to focus most of my time and energy on just getting around...and getting to know more people within my district," he said in an interview.



Rep. Riedel

Rep. Riedel, 50, represents the 82nd District, which is a conservative area of northwest Ohio covering Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

He and his constituents are most interested in policies that would rejuvenate the economy in that region and the entire state, he said.

Having worked at Nucor Corporation for 27 years, the lawmaker said he'd always been focused on attracting businesses to the state and keeping them here. However, he was inspired further through his campaigning, which included knocking on about 4,600 doors.

"We walked through parts of communities that we would have never walked through. That was very sobering to me and my wife because we didn't realize the amount of poverty we have here in northwest Ohio. It's much more severe than I ever imagined," Mr. Riedel said.

"That just reinforced my passion to help people and I think I can help people by bringing better paying jobs to Ohio and northwest Ohio."

His strategies for doing so will include allowing the free market to take control and reducing "unnecessary, burdensome" regulations on businesses, particularly when they hinder growth.

Rep. Riedel said he's a proponent of right-to-work and recently introduced legislation (HB 163) that would permit cities to opt out of prevailing wage.

"It's all about making Ohio more competitive, particularly where I live up here...there are border counties with Indiana and we are in a constant battle with the state of Indiana for good paying jobs, manufacturing jobs."

When it comes to giving control back to local communities or businesses, Rep. Riedel said: "I feel that way about everything."

"I just think we govern best when more decisions are made on a local level," he said.

Rep. Riedel said he's opposed to requiring schools to implement Common Core learning standards and will do his best to ensure taxes aren't increased at the state level. His wife of 28 years, Danette, is his best counsel when it comes to developing policy and responding to constituent concerns, Rep. Riedel said. Both have forgone other occupations to make the General Assembly a top priority for their family.

"She's been a tremendous help to me with her consultation and her outlook on things. This really is a team effort," he said.

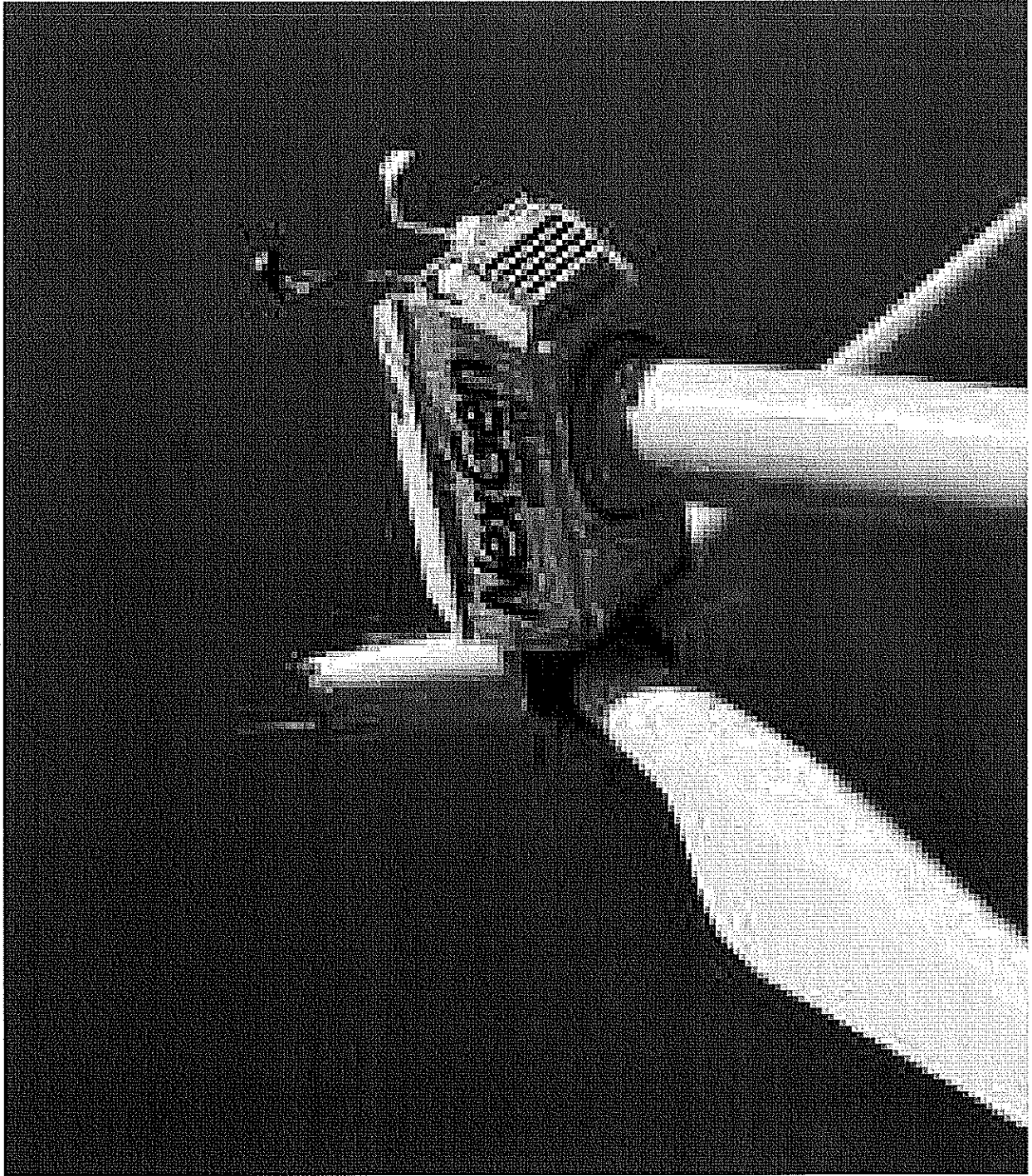
He and his wife have two children, both who graduated from Ohio State University. An OSU alumnus himself, Rep. Riedel said his family are faithful Buckeyes fans and are football season ticket holders.

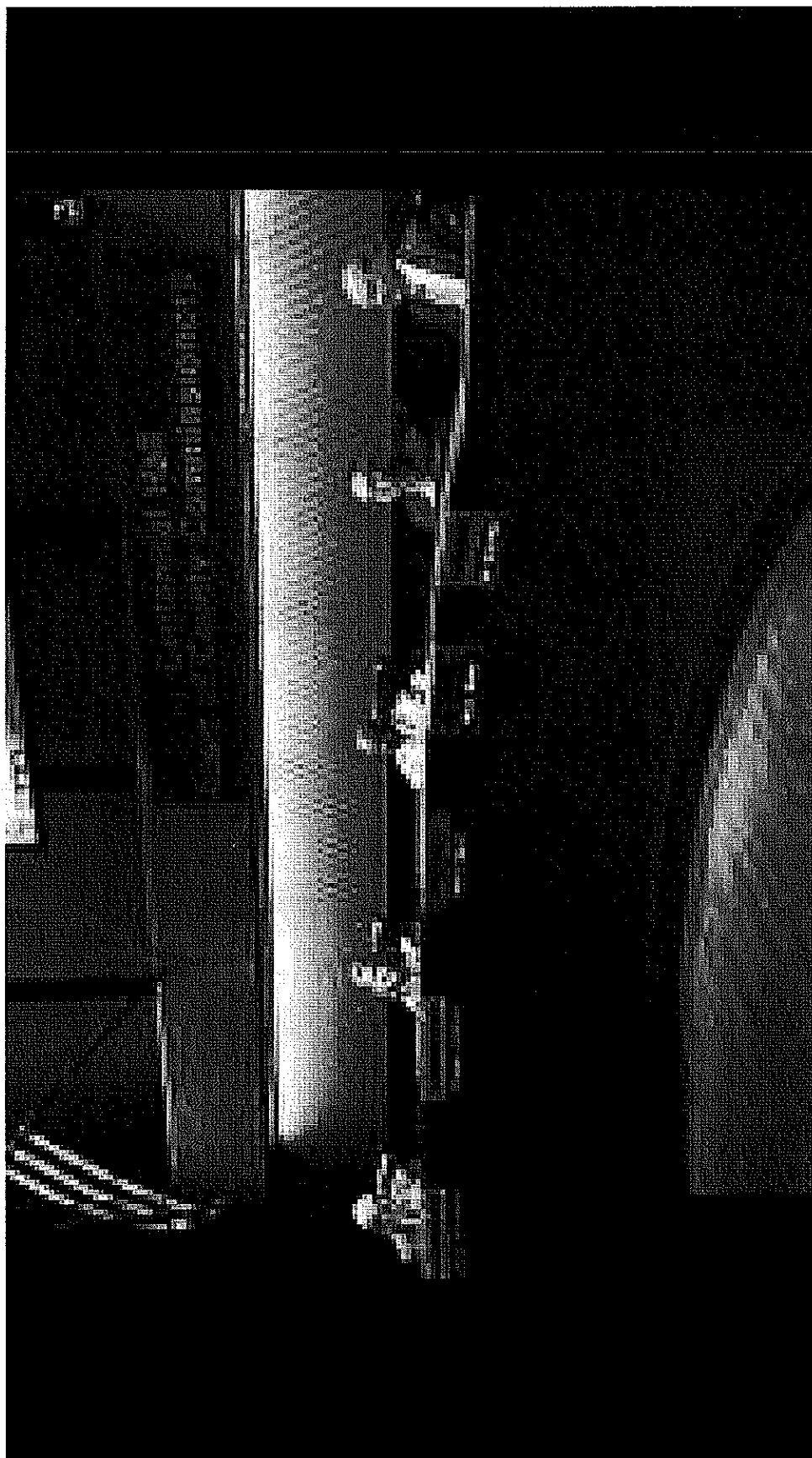


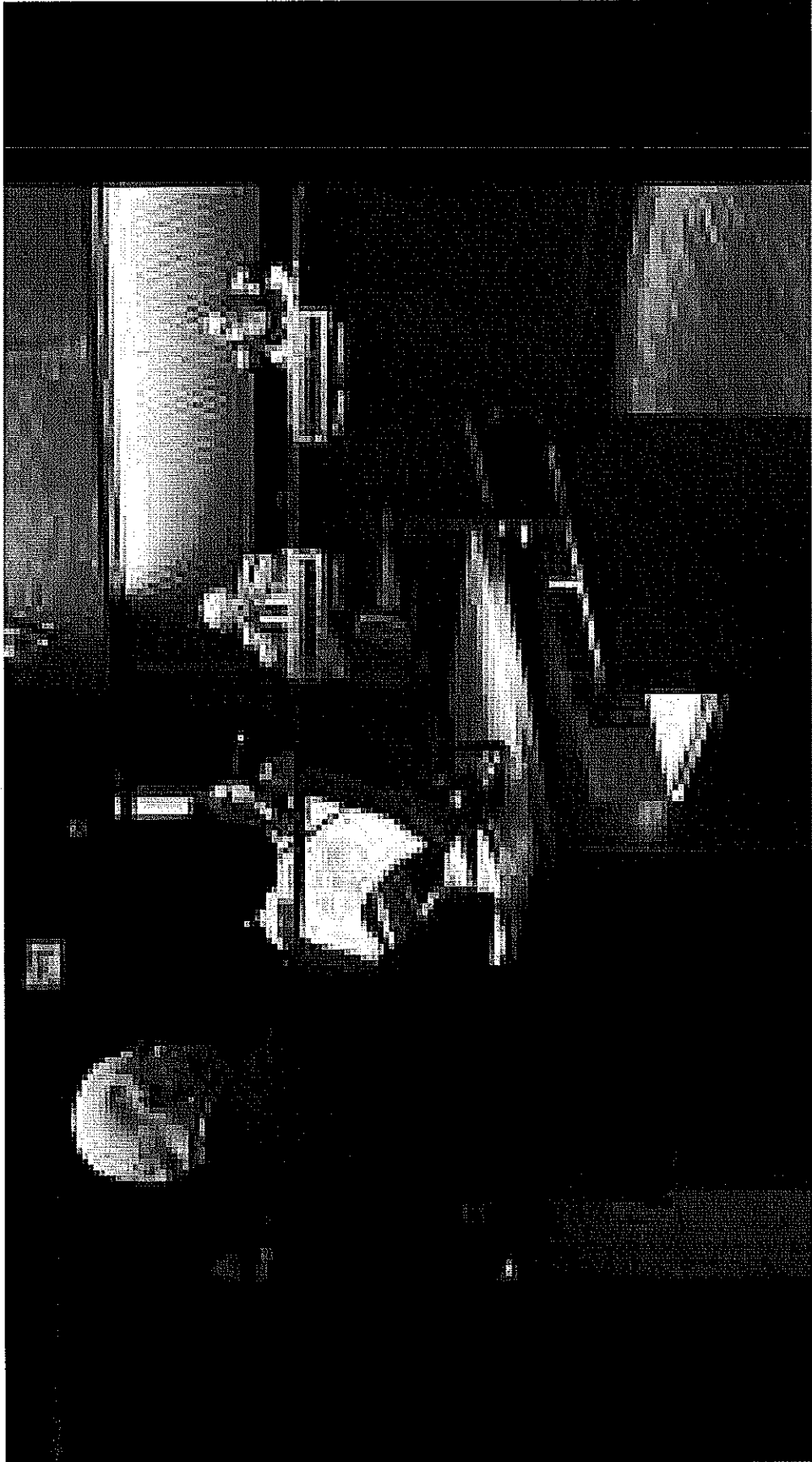
Virus-free. www.avg.com

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Letter to the Editor

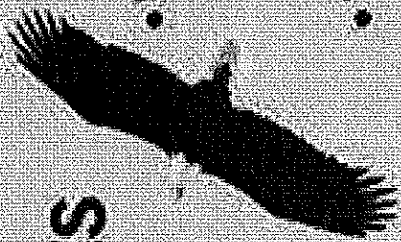








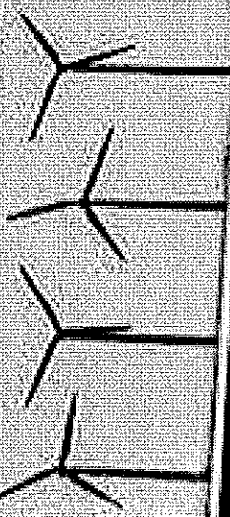
**KEEP
WIND TURBINES
OFF OUR
LAKE SHORE**



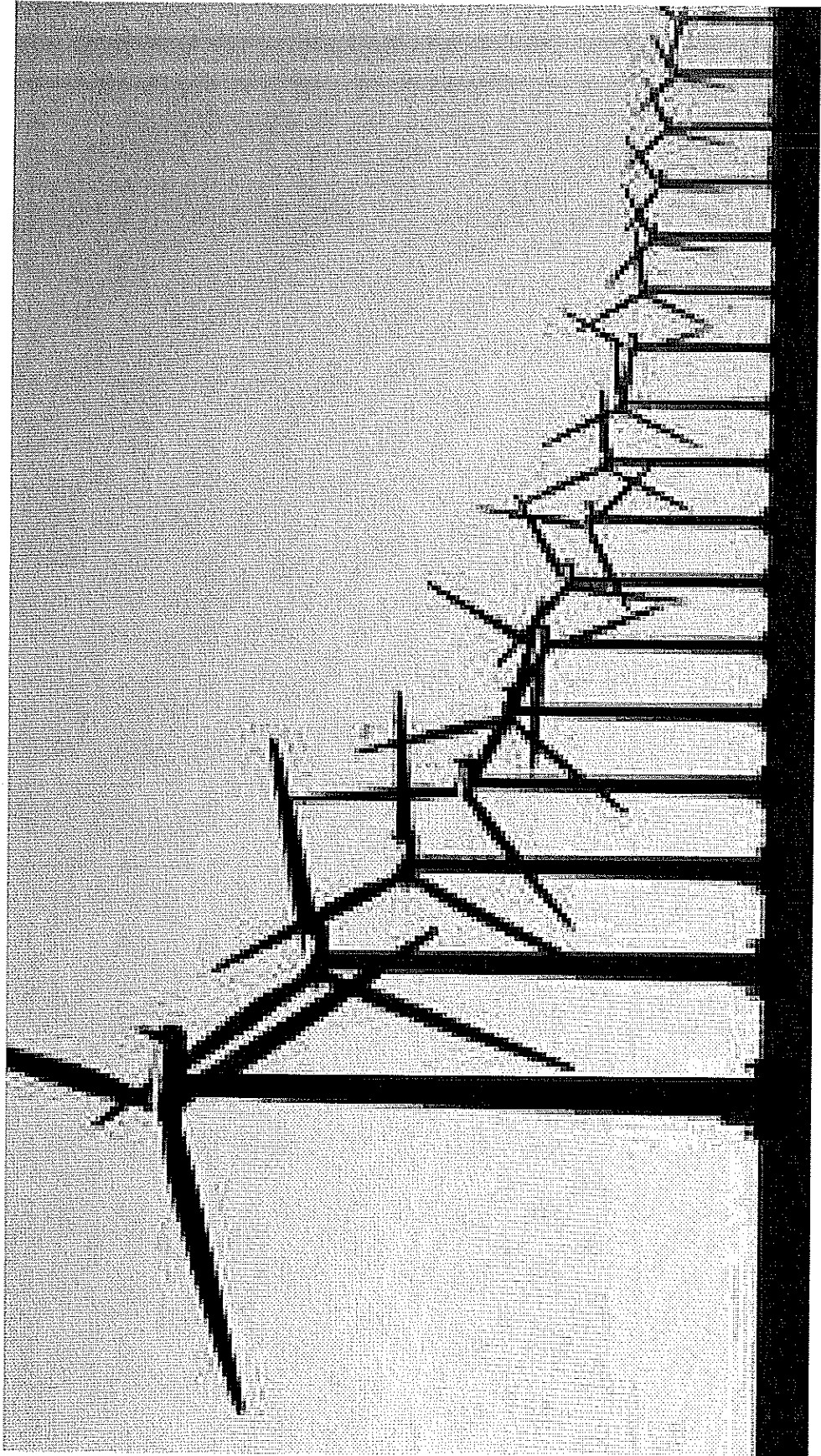
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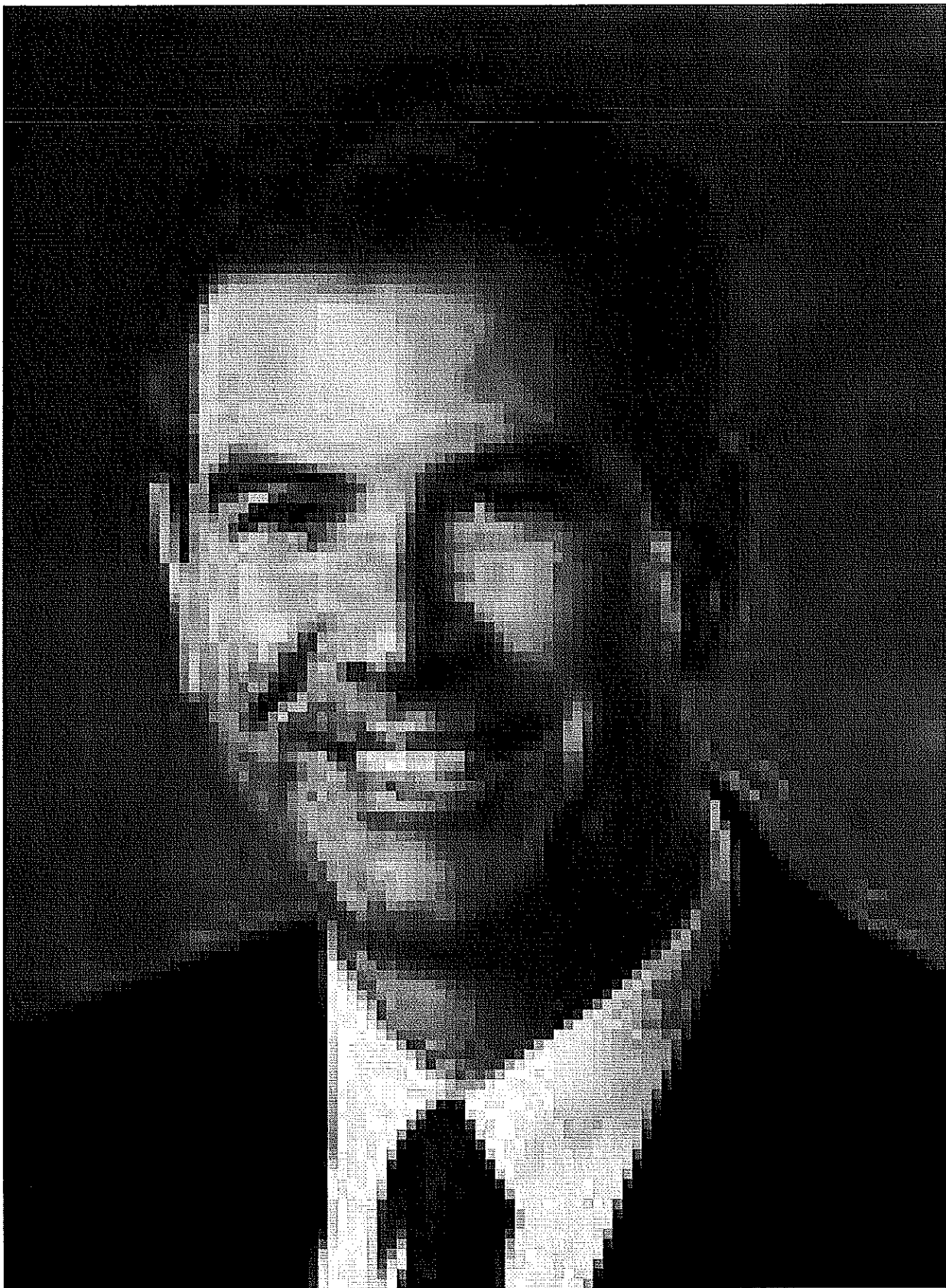
- BALD EAGLES
- WATERFOWL HUNTING
- BIRD WATCHING
- TOURISM
- THE LOCAL ECONOMY

LOCATION MATTERS!



2868





From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 8:22 AM
To: Rep30
Subject: Re: Wind News - Ohio Setbacks in Play

The Speaker told the advocates (at least Amazon) not to expect this in the budget and that they should run a stand alone bill if they want to have their day in court.

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Apr 12, 2017, at 7:51 AM, Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Please read every word of this long chain. There is no way on God's Green Earth that we should even consider for a millisecond changing the wind setbacks in the budget. Any of you that want to discuss this topic, I am game but not in the budget and the ardor to change them should be tempered by what you read below.

From: Kevon Martis <kevon@kevonmartis.com>
Date: April 11, 2017 at 9:04:53 PM EDT
To: julia johnson <juliejohnson@ctcn.net>, "Seitz, William" <william.seitz@dinsmore.com>
Subject: Re: Wind News - Ohio Setbacks in Play

A "flier"???? IT's from the f***** Michigan State University Extension, Greening Michigan Institute, Government and Public Policy Team!!!! That's the best they have?

MSE extension educates every planning commissioner in the State of Michigan!

Sorry...tired.

On 4/11/2017 8:52 PM, julia johnson wrote:

Friends,
We regret that a series of computer malfunctions left us out of communication over the past two weeks. During that time the wind industry lobby has been working to get the Ohio Senate to insert a provision in the budget bill rolling back the current

property line setback. At the same time, Rep. Bill Seitz has suggested that some kind of compromise on setbacks may need to be inserted in the mandate repeal bill (HB 114) when it is considered in the Senate. Seitz tells us that might be the cost of getting a veto-proof majority of Senate votes necessary to override a veto by Governor Kasich. As we understand it, a setback-related amendment to HB 114 would give township trustees the power to override current setbacks. When asked about conflicts of interest, Rep. Seitz said, *"Under my proposal, the trustees could not vote if they were participating leaseholders. My guess is that letting the trustees override the state setbacks would not result in much change as the people in the township would likely pressure them to not approve it."*

What we do not know at this point is whether the township trustees would be given the opportunity to lengthen setbacks as well as shorten them.

AWEA and the environmentalists are working hard to reverse protective setbacks. What we hope does not happen, is that the current setbacks are changed AND the township trustees are given authority to put them back only to preexisting property line measurements. There seems to be no dialog on noise or shadow flicker just distance.

In the meantime, during the past two weeks the press has reported setback controversies in Michigan, South Dakota, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Colorado. And those are just the stories we noticed. We also draw your attention to the LeedCo Icebreaker project (aka taxpayer boondoggle) in Lake Erie. The OPSB did not accept the application as complete and has requested the LeedCo resubmit. Today the American Bird Conservancy wrote in the Chicago Tribune that all turbines should be

kept out of the Great Lakes due to enormous projections of migratory slaughter. We understand that many, many people wrote comments in opposition to the LeedCo project. Now that the application must be submitted, we are told all those comments will be lost and the public will have to start over.

We are glad to be back on line and urge everyone to call their local legislators to counter the spin coming from AWEA. Cut and paste the articles about problems in other states to demonstrate these problems are real.

Diane and Julie

PS We include at the very bottom a profile of first term Ohio Rep. Craig Riedel from Defiance.

Ohio Statehouse News

April 11, 2017 OHIO

Wind, Environmental Groups Eyeing Senate For Budget Amendment To Reduce Wind Setback

A coalition of wind energy advocates is laying the groundwork for a budget effort to reduce Ohio's turbine setback once the two-year spending measure arrives in the Senate.

Advocates said in interviews they believe senators are more amenable to their proposal to revert the setback to what it was before lawmakers increased it to 1,125 feet in a 2014 mid-biennium review budget bill, effectively killing new wind farm development.

At the same time, members of both House caucuses submitted proposed budget

amendments last week offering several options to reduce the current setback. A proposal from Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), for instance, would reduce the setback to one-and-a-half times the height of the turbine. Although not as lenient as the pre-2014 setback, he believes it's a "good compromise" between the two sides.

"Wind is a big resource in my district and I've had a lot of requests for those setbacks to be looked at," Rep. Reineke said. "It increases it slightly over what it was pre-2014. And it changes some of the hearing requirements for the neighbors to be able to sign off if they would choose to do so. It gives it a little bit more flexibility."

Rep. Reineke said he believes there's an appetite in the House to reexamine the issue.

Whether any of those amendments will make it into the House's substitute budget (HB 49) bill expected to be unveiled April 25 is yet to be seen. But even if the House chooses to pass on the issue, advocates believe the Senate may be more willing to act.

"I certainly think there's a possibility of it (happening)," said Dayna Baird Payne, who represents the American Wind Energy Association and other proponents. "I think there is some openness in the Senate currently."

She credits much of that openness to Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay), whose district would likely contain any new wind development. But advocates say the Senate overall has greater institutional knowledge of the issue and offers an easier route to generate a consensus given its smaller size.

"I think there's some understanding on that leadership team this is an issue about economic development and removing an artificial market barrier," Ms. Payne said. "If a company wants to build a wind project,

locals want that project and an end user wants to purchase that wind, this stands in the way and prevents it."

The Sierra Club and the Ohio Environmental Council are among other groups hoping for a setback change in the Senate. At the same time, they continue pushing back against a Michigan State University document some Republican representatives have said justifies an additional increase in the setback.

Rep Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) have repeatedly pointed to the document in recent weeks, saying that if the legislature really wants to take the issue back up it should increase the setback to 2,500 feet.

Wind supporters, though, point out that what the lawmakers have called a "study" is referred to as a "flier" by its author and that it states a setback equal to the tower's height would be adequate. Under that rationale, they said, the state's previous setback would suffice.

"We're watching this issue," OEC General Counsel Trent Dougherty said. "Obviously, we don't believe there should be even more of an increase...so we're watching for that and expressing our opposition."

Sierra Club Ohio Chapter Director Jen Miller called the idea "ridiculous," since turbine development has already come to a virtual halt under the current setback.

"Eighty percent of wind in Ohio is actually serving markets outside of Ohio," Ms. Miller said. "We should just be fixing our problem now. We've already zoned ourselves out of the wind business."

<http://www.marion-press.com/2017/03/wind-turbines-unsafe-at-any-distance/>

The Marion Press - MICHIGAN

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

“Wind Turbines: Unsafe at any distance”



Dear Editor:

Last December, one of the turbines at the Stoney Corners wind facility burst into flames and was completely destroyed. Black smoke darkened the sky and heavy winds spread ash and burning particles on fields and properties nearby. For days the acrid odor of smoldering composites lingered in the air and seeped into my home along with several other homes in the area of the fire.

By the next day, what was left of the turbine was hauled off and some of the contaminated top soil was bulldozed into a pile where it still sits, three months later. What assurance is there that contaminants from the burned turbine are not filtering into the groundwater below?

Heritage Sustainable Energy, who owns the project, told the local press that turbine fires have never happened before in McBain. That may be so, but as a wind developer, Heritage is well aware that fire is the second largest cause of turbine failure worldwide and the problem is growing. Heritage touts wind power as clean and emission free but no one ever mentions the toxic pollutants released when the blades and other parts of the nacelle are ignited or the hazards of inhaling the gas and particles emitted by the fire.

“More than ten of the 28 Heritage turbines

are sited within two miles of my home with the closest just 1700 feet away." Back in 2008 when I agreed to sign a contract with Heritage, something I deeply regret, no one informed me of the dangers of living so close to the spinning towers. I can tell you first hand that wind turbines are not safe for humans, animals, birds of all sorts, the environment, or your electric bill. They are Not Green, Not Clean and Not Cheap.

If the state and its legislators continue to blindly insist that wind turbines are safe, they should advocate projects be sited on State and Federal land away from communities where they pollute our countryside and put people and property at risk.

There are alternatives to wind power that do not carry the same dangers and that are safer for humans, animals, birds and our countryside. Be warned and say "no" to wind power in your community.

Dianne Ziegler

<http://www.faribaultcountyregister.com/page/content.detail/id/512142/Fighting-the-winds-of-change.html>

Fighting the winds of change Pilot Grove Township residents want stricter wind ordinance

April 9, 2017

Cody Benjamin - Register Staff Writer
Faribault County Register **MINNESOTA**
When the Coalition for Rural Property
Rights stormed the Faribault County

Courthouse on Tuesday, it was not an officially licensed organization.

But in claiming support from nearly 90 percent of Pilot Grove Township residents, overflowing the county commissioners room with agricultural advocates and literally standing in unison to plead for greater setbacks and a more restrictive ordinance pertaining to wind turbines in the county, it made its stance as official as could be.

The Coalition brands itself as "a group of Iowa landowners standing against the encroachment of industrial wind installations," but its representatives at Tuesday's meeting mostly identified themselves as Pilot Grove residents particularly ones perturbed at a Rose Lake Wind Project proposed by the independent power producer EDF Renewable Energy. The Faribault County Board meeting room was overflowing last Tuesday, when residents of Pilot Grove Township and others testified before the commissioners about their concerns about wind turbine development.

With at least four locals reading prepared statements, several others chiming in from behind walls of other guests and the County Board forced to oversee crowded seating arrangements as much as the discussion at hand, the Coalition prefaced a visit from EDF's Shanelle Montana, a senior project developer, with adamant requests for a crackdown on turbines.

Not one of the guest speakers denied the financial benefit of wind generation, which Montana went on to crown as "an additional resource" for "cheap electricity" and therefore an obvious draw for local businesses. But complaints of everything from noisy turbine malfunctions to an alleged ignorance of the county's agricultural roots rang loud and clear as the

Coalition suggested the commissioners adopt the Goodhue County wind-structure ordinance, which enforces greater setbacks than that of Faribault County's renewable energy restrictions.

Paul Carr, who said he has mostly been a lifelong Pilot Grove Township resident, helped kick off the campaign. "I come here," Carr said, "representing and on behalf of about 88 percent of Pilot Grove Township residents, who have signed a petition to increase a setback of commercial wind generators to non-participating residences."

Saying that current setbacks, which dictate that wind turbines can be placed roughly 1,000 to 1,500 feet from such residences, are "not far enough to prevent material harm" such as added noise, shadow flicker and "a complete change of environment,"

Carr asked that local constituents be prioritized over the economic boosts of projects like the one proposed by EDF.

Montana later countered by suggesting the EDF project, which would span from Pilot Grove Township into Martin County, would not begin taking shape until 2020. By that point, such a project would not be federally subsidized, therefore potentially lessening the financial burden on local communities.

But concerns remained.

"Most object to an object roughly the size of a Boeing 747, over 400 feet in the air and constantly moving, being placed within 1,000 to roughly 1,500 feet of them," Carr said. "Without more setbacks for large wind turbines, the county may find itself with more money to spend on a public garage (only) to serve its fewer residents."

Carolyn Zierke, a local agronomist of 25 years, wondered aloud why counties, especially Faribault County, would even consider uprooting or impeding upon

signature farmlands for the sake of wind projects.

"Why are counties overlaying an industrial zone on top of a productive agricultural zone?" she asked. "A turbine is not a piece of farm equipment, and it is not a farm structure."

Dan Moore, once a director of project development for Renewable Energy Solutions and one of the developers behind Blue Earth's Big Blue Windfarm, agreed.

"I sat here in this same seat 14 years ago," Moore said, referencing a decades-old visit to the County Board regarding turbine development. "Today, I am here as a retired wind generator developer ... and I am asking for the adoption of the Goodhue County ordinance."

Reviewing his own history in campaigning for wind energy, Moore reminded the board that he helped other turbines, including those at Winnebago's Corn Plus ethanol plant, come to life.

But after discovering some of the faults of turbine projects, particularly noisy side effects, he made it clear Tuesday that he was standing with none other than the waves of Pilot Grove people behind him.

"Had I known they would be this noisy, guys," he said, referring to the Big Blue turbines, "listen, I would never have started developing that project."

Producing an apple from his shirt pocket and leaving it on the guest podium in front of the commissioners, Moore asked the board to overlook promises of more money for the concerns of the rural residents.

"Don't get mesmerized by the apple money," he said. "Don't let the illusion of big money generated by these big machines cloud your judgment in protecting the residents who are forced to live around these big machines. These are the families that have elected you guys to

protect them, so please don't bite the apple."

Others reiterated the alluring, albeit apparently deceiving, role of money in the matter.

"In the end, it seems like the money always wins," one man said from the mass of guests, saying the county already houses 22 industrial-sized turbines. "EDF is on the agenda after us, and I'm sure they're going to tell you how great this is, how every project they've built has left counties rich and happy, because that's what this big push for wind is all about money."

When Montana, of EDF, was finally summoned to speak, weaving through the crowd of standing guests to make herself seen, she did not ignore money's part in the discussion.

But her first point centered on the fact that EDF will not pursue any project, let alone one that allegedly threatens the well-being of nearly an entire township, without the community's support.

"I'm not here to shove a project down anyone's throat," Montana said, recounting her own upbringing as a "farm girl." "I'm just here to present something. We're only here if we have a willing partner, and that partner is a community."

Claiming that the state of Minnesota already owns some of the strictest wind turbine setbacks in the country, Montana assured some of the concerned residents that if any malfunctioning or noisy structures reached certain decibel levels, they would be shut down.

"A decommissioning plan is required with these projects," she noted.

All things considered, Montana still urged the commissioners to weigh their options. "This is up to the community," she said. "I just want you to know that if you have an

additional setback, I cannot efficiently and effectively develop a low-cost project."

Pilot Grove visitors flocked to the EDF developer after departing the commissioners room, some alleging that a February public meeting on the proposed turbine project was available through "private invitation only," and others saying they heard EDF partners are contracted not to speak negatively about polarizing projects.

But more talks regarding the future of the project, and the ordinance that might inhibit it, are on the docket.

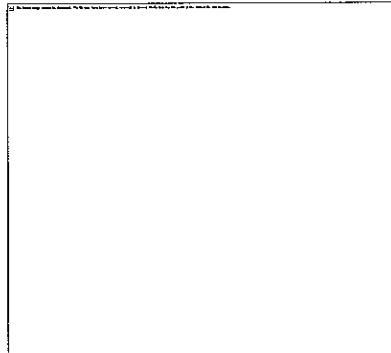
Commissioner Greg Young, who acknowledged most of the concerns stemmed from a township he represents, agreed with board chairman John Roper that a work session with the county's Planning and Zoning department was in order. A unanimous vote by the commissioners then scheduled that session for April 18, immediately following the board's next regular meeting.

And now, having shared or considered opinions from both sides of a windy spectrum, the county, Montana and the Coalition for Rural Property Rights wait.

http://www.starbeacon.com/news/local_news/conneaut-wind-turbine-facing-uncertain-future/article_2ca4767c-b0e9-5bd2-9215-22d8377023fc.html

Conneaut wind turbine facing uncertain future

By MARK TODD OHIO



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

An arm of a Conneaut Harbor wind turbine was severed by lightning last month.

CONNEAUT — A wind turbine severely damaged by lightning late last month is facing an uncertain future on Conneaut's lakefront.

At Monday's City Council meeting, City Manager James Hockaday said the turbine's owner, NexGen Energy, wants a long-term renewal of its contract with the city before it will proceed with repairs. The 400-kilowatt turbine was constructed in January 2010 to provide some of the electricity used by the city's sewage treatment plant. On Feb. 25, lightning blew apart one of the turbine's blades. A power surge from the blast also damaged some equipment and fixtures inside the plant. A contract with NexGen obliges the city to buy electricity generated by the turbine for 10 years. The contract expires in 2020. Hockaday said NexGen estimates repairs to the turbine will cost \$250,000. To make the fix-up financially feasible for NexGen, the company would require an extension to its contract with the city, he told council. A contract proposal is being prepared and will be shared with council when it's delivered, Hockaday said. If no agreement on a contract extension is reached, the city would ask the turbine be disassembled and removed.

NexGen said the damage to the turbine was among the most severe the company has experienced, Hockaday said Monday. The extent of damage to the plant is still being assessed, he said.

The biggest concern is a blower motor on one piece of equipment that is not working properly.

In August 2011, 18 months after the turbine was installed, lightning damaged a blade that was replaced several months later.

A NexGen spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

Another NexGen wind turbine, a 600-kilowatt model adjacent to Conneaut Middle School on Gateway Avenue, has been idle for years. NexGen is suing the manufacturer, alleging parts were defective. The turbine, designed to provide electricity to CMS, never performed as planned since it went online in late 2009, according to the lawsuit, filed in 2013.

Repairs to the school turbine won't happen until the lawsuit is settled, NexGen officials said at the time.

<http://gazette.com/reassurances-fail-to-convince-some-neighbors-el-paso-county-wind-farm-is-safe/article/1599581>

Reassurances fail to convince some neighbors El Paso County wind farm is safe

By: Rachel Riley

March 23, 2017 Updated: March 24, 2017
at 6:21 am **COLORADO**

Residents living by a wind farm near Calhan say the turbines are affecting their health and harming animals, despite reassurances

from experts at this week's El Paso County commissioners' meeting.

Jeff Wolfe, who lives close to NextEra Energy's Golden West wind farm, said he's experienced nausea, dizziness and migraines since it began operating in fall 2015. He attributes the symptoms to the low-frequency sound waves, known as infrasound, emitted by the 145 windmills. "This is poisoning people. It's poisoning animals," said Wolfe, who has lived at his home between Yoder and Calhan for 20 years. He also blames the turbines for the cardiovascular problems his wife has begun to experience and the death of seven of their animals, including five dogs.

At the meeting, intended to provide commissioners and residents with an update on the wind farm, county staff and NextEra officials presented reports on the sound levels of the windmills and the flickering effect, known as "shadow flicker," that occurs when the sun shines through the turbines' rotating blades. A half-dozen residents also had the chance to air their grievances about the wind farm, approved by commissioners in 2013, which has long been a source of controversy.

Experts told commissioners that study after study has shown the infrasound generated by windmills isn't hazardous to humans, and the levels of infrasound and amount of shadow flicker created by the turbines are in compliance with local regulations and zoning rules.

John Dailey, senior business manager for the Florida-based energy company, said the company has received 83 complaints about the project since March 2015, a month after commissioners OK'd a change to the original construction plan that included a 29-mile above-ground power line.

About 70 of the complaints were made during the seven months the farm was

being built and mostly involved construction-related concerns about noise and dust. Of the roughly 15 others that have been made since the \$400 million project was completed, more than half have been resolved, Dailey said.

"I think that's a pretty good track record," he told commissioners.

Assessor Steve Schleiker also presented data from June through January showing property values in the area have not fallen due to the wind farm. Properties sold within a one-mile radius of the turbines and transmission line went for prices well above market values. He also cited numbers from the Pikes Peak Multiple Listing Service that showed that average sale prices of single family homes in the Calhan and Ramah area increased by about 45.5 percent between February 2016 and February 2017.

"Bottom line, it's all good news," he told commissioners.

A consultant with environmental engineering and consulting firm Epsilon Associates, hired by NextEra to conduct studies on sound levels and shadow flicker that were required by its agreement with the county, presented the firm's findings. One report, which measured noise levels at 15 different locations near the wind farm, concluded that the turbines do not exceed the noise limit set by county ordinance. The second report, which used a computerized model to measure the duration of shadow flicker experienced by homes near the farm, stated that most of the homes experience less than the 30-hour-per-year maximum imposed by county regulations. The two exceptions were homes that are not included in the requirement because their owners have voluntary agreements with the company.

While research has linked high levels of infrasound to symptoms such as headache and nausea, the levels created by the turbines are too low to pose health risks, said Chris Ollson, an environmental health scientist who spoke at the meeting.

But residents who testified during the public comment part of the meeting dismissed the data, saying the infrasound and shadow flicker are still taking a toll. "It's changed our life dramatically," said Joe Cobb, who lives close to the wind farm. "And I don't care how many experts come up here and tell me it's perfectly normal. It's not perfectly normal."

Several of the complaints the company has yet to resolve were made by people who spoke at the meeting, said Steve Stengel, director of communications for NextEra.

"We will continue to seek a satisfactory resolution with these individuals," Stengel said in an email following the meeting.

Commissioner Darryl Glenn said his colleagues and county staff would review residents' concerns and some of the research that was provided by objectors. Glenn also encouraged residents to use the formal complaint process, outlined in NextEra's contract with the county, to express their concerns about the effects of the windmills.

Under the terms of the contract, commissioners have the option to "require additional and reasonable mitigation or remedial actions" if NextEra does not adequately address complaints.

<http://www.krdo.com/news/top-stories/calhan-wind-farm-situation-remains-unresolved/411990993>

Calhan wind farm situation remains unresolved

*Nextera says turbines are within safety
guidelines*

By: Scott Harrison

Posted: Mar 23, 2017 06:38 PM MDT

COLORADO

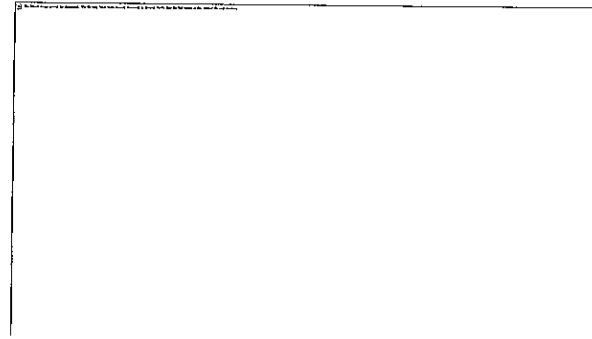
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - An El Paso County commissioner said Thursday that safety and health concerns regarding the Nextera wind farm in Calhan may never be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.

"I don't know that it's within our authority to consider at this point in time," said Commissioner Mark Waller. "It's been approved. The process has already taken place to allow Nextera to operate a wind farm."

Ever since the wind farm opened last fall, a small but vocal group of current and former neighbors has expressed concern that noise, other types of sound called infrasound and shadow flicker from turbine blades have sickened people and animals.

"I had to move away because I was sick," said Jeff Wolfe. "My wife stays behind to care for our animals and she's getting sick. I put my life savings into our home."

Wolfe said 10 to 15 families have moved away from Calhan because of the situation. Commissioners on Thursday held a hearing on the matter that lasted nearly four hours.

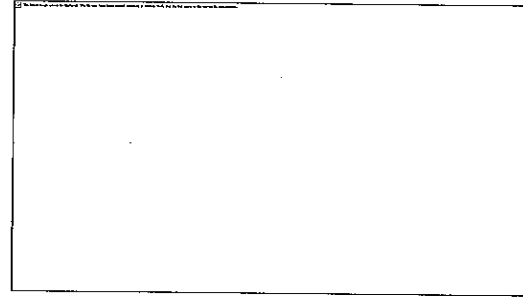


John Dailey, a Nextera spokesman, declined an interview request from KRDO NewsChannel 13 to explain what else besides the wind farm could be affecting health.

But in a presentation during the hearing, Dailey cited Nextera studies, and research from two consultants, which state the wind farm is well within the health and safety guidelines established in the company's permit from the county.

"Generally speaking, (any) complaints (or) impacts have been attributed to infrasound, which is a form of noise," he said. "We've received complaints of that nature from four or five individuals -- some of them, multiple times."

Several Nextera critics said they conducted their own research, including a study by a Boulder-based acoustics expert who suggested the wind farm should close.



Commissioners said they don't have enough information yet to decide what, if any, action to take.

"We're going to hold Nextera accountable to make sure they're meeting their

obligations," Waller said. "We're trying to be unbiased about the situation. This is the first time we as a commission (with two new members) are learning about the history of the situation and the level of concern."

At an undetermined future hearing, commissioners said they want to learn more about how Nextera responds to complaints from neighbors.

Some neighbors said Nextera is slow to respond or hasn't responded at all, and criticized commissioners for their lack of action.

Commissioners Darryl Glenn and Longinos Gonzalez Jr., both asked upset neighbors to follow an established complaint process.

"It's extremely important because it's an obligation that we're held to," Glenn said.

"We can't hold Nextera responsible for not doing what they're (supposed to) if the complaint hasn't been submitted (properly)."

Dailey said Nextera will work harder to communicate with affected neighbors, and that the company wants to see the results of the private research presented at the hearing.

The wind farm has 145 turbines and a 29-mile transmission line. The company sells electricity to Xcel Energy.

http://www.ricentral.com/coventry_courier/residents-complain-of-issues-with-turbines/article_32004724-1028-11e7-9df6-5762fa374322.html

Residents complain of issues with turbines

Kendra Lollo Mar 23, 2017 **RHODE ISLAND COVENTRY** — Citing increasing concerns from constituents in her ward regarding Wind Energy Development's newly-

installed wind turbines, Councilwoman Karen Carlson made a public plea this week with town officials to "take notice and listen."

The District 1 councilwoman read excerpts of correspondence she had received from residents surrounding the turbines.

"Our dream of sitting outside behind our house enjoying some peace and quiet no longer exists," said a resident of Flat River Road. "We sit on the deck at night and all we can hear are the windmills. We open our bedroom window and all we can hear are the windmills. There is not one day that goes by that we don't hear it. The ones who benefit from it don't have to deal with the effects of these windmills."

Carlson quoted another resident of West Long Bridge Road, who said they were experiencing issues with shadow flicker from the propellers of the turbine, particularly when the sun is setting. The home owner requested that the turbines be shut down during that time on a daily basis, citing the town's existing wind energy ordinance.

"During the time of shadow flicker, the wind energy facility shall be shut down so as to eliminate shadow flicker issues," the ordinance reads. "The presence of shadow flicker shall be measured at the property boundary lines and at locations within 2,500 feet of the wind energy facility."

The ordinance also indicates that the applicant, when proposing the turbines, is required to prove that the flicker effect will not have "significant adverse impact" on the neighboring properties.

"I'd like to know what the hell we're going to do about this," Carlson said, apologizing for the language. "These are tax payers. They're not getting anything from these turbines, and it's time to take notice and listen. We need to do it now."

Carlson also pointed out that the town's own noise ordinance says that excessive noise degrades quality of life.

"For the people who move out to Greene and Western Coventry, they're out there because they want a country rural lifestyle without a lot of noise," she said.

Town Manager Graham Waters said that he has referred the complaints to the zoning department, and some even to DePasquale himself, who Waters said requested to be put in contact with residents who experience issues with the turbines.

"I've made no qualms about interfering on behalf of residents," Waters said. "But I feel that if Mr. DePasquale can intervene first and take care of their issues directly and have a direct line of conversation with them, I think that would be the most beneficial."

"We're not supposed to rely on him to do something for the residents when we already have an ordinance," Carlson replied.

Waters said that because the turbines were constructed in May of 2016 and have just recently come online, he has been referring complaints to the zoning department for further investigation.

The same homeowner who reached out to Carlson regarding the shadow flicker also informed her that water from the wetland abutting their property was backing up and overflowing a segment of a nearby access road under which Wind Energy Development had installed a conduit for the turbines. The resident feared that the continued erosion of the road would lead to exposure of the electrical conduit which was installed in October of 2015. When the individual contacted DePasquale, they were told a depression would be made in the newly installed road to allow for proper drainage, but it was never actually made.

"The culvert that Wind Energy constructed has become blocked, causing the water to back up and flow over the road itself, washing out the dirt and gravel covering the road."

Carlson said the Department of Environmental Management was able to acquire a cease and desist notice because Wind Energy Development was not issued permits to modify the wetland in the area. She called the incident "disturbing," and asked that a town official conduct an inspection of the area.

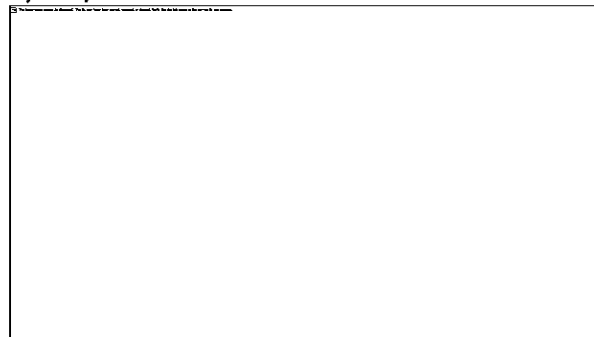
"What I would like a zoning official to go out there and finally look at this," she said. "Somebody from the town should be there checking our Chapter 200 which is our soil erosion chapter."

<http://www.kdlt.com/2017/04/04/lincoln-county-increases-restrictions-wind-turbines/>

Lincoln County Increases Restrictions For Wind Turbines

April 4, 2017 **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Sydney Kern



CANTON, S.D. – It was a tough night for a company that wants to build a wind farm in Lincoln County. County commissioners approved some zoning changes.

Dakota Power Community Wind wants to build a farm with nearly 300 turbines. But commissioners voted to put some tougher restrictions on how quiet they have to be. Dakota Power wanted a top noise limit of 65 decibels, but commissioners set the limit at 45 decibels. The company says that is unrealistic based on a study they conducted testing the current noise in the county.

"The noise level ranged from 36.4. DBA to 51.3 DBA, so in some areas the decibel level was already exceeded before we even did anything," says Rob Johnson, with Dakota Power Community Wind. Commissioners also discussed a second zoning change.

This one dealt with the setback distance, which is how far the turbines have to be from public roads and homes.

The current distance is 1,320 ft., or three times the height of the turbine.

The Planning Commission recommended increasing it to 5,200 ft., or one mile.

The county commissioners said this decision is the toughest they= 2ll have to make, since it could determine whether or not Canton and surrounding cities could grow in the future.

They decided to table it for now, so they can look into more research on the topic. Dakota Power Community Wind says they can deal with the noise restrictions, though it will make their project much more difficult.

But they said if the county adds setback restrictions, then they will have to kill the project.

<http://northcountrynow.com/news/citizen-s-opposed-parishville-and-hopkinton-wind-turbines-vent-pilot-tax-and-lease-agreement>

Citizens opposed to Parishville and Hopkinton wind turbines vent PILOT, tax and lease agreement concerns to legislators

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - 11:46 am **NEW YORK**

By MATT LINDSEY

CANTON -- Members of the Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation attended a St. Lawrence County Legislature meeting Monday to dispute claims made by an environmental health scientist and business developer relating to proposed wind turbines.

Four community members, Will Dailey, Lucia Dailey, Gary Snell and Lori Witherell all spoke at the meeting during a public comment period disputing claims made by Avangrid associates Christopher Ollson, an environmental health scientist, and Scott McDonald, a business developer.

Ollson and McDonald made the presentation to legislators March 27.

Avangrid, a subsidiary of Iberdrola, is heading the North Ridge Wind Farm which calls for about 40 wind towers, about 500 feet high, to be constructed on land in Hopkinton and Parishville.

The concerned citizens group opposes claims made that property values do not decrease when a wind farm moves into an area. They also say Avangrid employees have had contact with school and town officials relating to Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) contracts versus taxes. Other

concerns were clauses contained in lease agreements and wind power taking money away from the Robert Moses Power Dam.

Will Dailey expressed concerns about a confidentiality clause and right to terminate clause he read in a lease between a landowner and Avangrid.

He told legislators that should landowners wish to complain publicly about issues (such as noise, visual impairment or flickering the light), that they (landowners) would have to submit complaints directly to Avangrid before it could be printed for the public to see.

"You should read the lease agreements – they are a hoot," Dailey said in an interview with North Country This Week April 5. His wife, Lucia, was also interviewed.

He says the agreements do not allow landowners to terminate their lease, but includes the option for the wind company to do so.

Mr. Dailey says an Amish friend of his bought land a few years ago that had a lease agreement. The Amish man was allegedly told by an Avangrid representative that he could in fact get out of the agreement, a contradiction of what his agreement states.

"I don't know if all of these leases are the same," Mr. Dailey said. "Neighbors should be getting together to discuss the leases and I am not sure that is happening."

Mr. Dailey's wife, Lucia, says claims that wind farms do not decrease property values are false.

"They say there is no decrease – but when property values are going up everywhere else and remaining the same near wind farms – that shows property values decrease near wind farms," she said. So although property values may not decrease on paper, with other property values rising in other parts of the state, land near wind

farms does not increase in value at the same rate, according to studies the Dailey's have read.

The Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation are receiving help from other towns, including Vermont, Massachusetts and across the state, who have challenged wind farms or who are facing the same situation now.

"Other communities (that have wind farms) are coming to us with information about the health effects from the turbines," Mrs. Dailey said. "A couple in Vermont were forced to abandon their home because they couldn't stand them anymore."

She also said people from nearby Chateaugay have approached the group warning them about property values. The couple claims that they have been unable to sell their home for anything close to what they put into it, all because of wind turbines in the area..

Mrs. Dailey says that Avangrid officials have informally contacted local officials about PILOTS. According to Mrs. Dailey, Avangrid representatives stated they have not had contact with local officials. She says Parishville Town Supervisor Rodney Votra said he was approached about PILOTS. He allegedly made the comment at a town hall meeting.

"We are pretty sure," Avangrid has had private, individual meetings with the superintendent and the Hopkinton town supervisor, she said.

Mrs. Dailey said she believes school and town officials saw PILOTS as free money if the project does happen. She says information they've gathered shows that PILOTS would not provide the same financial gain for the area as taxes would. Staying with the financial impact on the region, Mrs. Dailey says wind turbines

would have an impact on the Robert Moses hydropower dam in Massena.

Mrs. Dailey says she was going door-to-door discussing wind power and a power worker told her the power dam would have to cut back its production so it would not overload the grid.

She says studies have shown that wind turbines generally produce just 20 to 25 percent of their capacity. "It is unreliable and not that efficient." "Why take on a project that pays taxes to basically offer a subsidy to the wind company," Dailey asked.

Mr. Dailey said it was "nice of the legislators to put up with the public coming to meetings." "I am hopeful they (legislators) will bring themselves up to speed."

<http://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2017/04/06/citizens-oppose-wind-farm-project/>

Citizens oppose wind farm project

Apr 6, 2017

Anna Boettcher Staff Writer MINNESOTA

BLUE EARTH — Representatives of the Coalition for Rural Property Rights spoke before the Faribault County Commission this week, presenting opposition to a proposed industrial wind energy installation in the county.

Citizens packed the commissioners room at the Courthouse to voice their concerns regarding placement of wind turbines.

The current setback for non-participating residences is 1,000 feet. The average rotor diameter of wind energy turbines has been steadily increasing, leading many citizens to believe the current setback requirement is

not enough to protect non-participating lands and residences.

The Coalition requested that the board consider increasing setbacks from non-participating dwellings to 10 times the rotor diameter of the wind turbine to be installed, which is comparable to the ordinance adopted in Goodhue County. Many of these Faribault County residents believe the placement of the wind turbines is infringing on their rights. Community members discussed several points regarding the wind turbine placement, including limitations on hunting rights, firearm use, agricultural prosperity and residents' quality of life. They believe large-scale wind turbines can cause harm to people in the form of loss of enjoyment of property through added noise, shadow flicker and a complete change to their environment, which is almost completely out of their control. Most object to an object, roughly the size of a Boeing 747, over 400 feet in the air constantly moving within 1,000 to 1,500 feet of them, said one resident.

Carolyn Zierke offered her perspective on the proposed wind turbines:

"By allowing growers to protect their crops during the most important time in a plant's life, it means, for you as a county, an additional local revenue of over \$3.8 billion by not placing 120 turbines on productive farmland ... Why are counties overlaying an industrial zone on top of a productive agricultural zone? This county has the highest producing ground in the state ... Don't compromise the soil structure that these growers have built in this county, or the investment in tile to properly drain these productive crops that we grow, because the revenue generated from the state's highest-producing county has a rippling effect on the community."

Dan Warner also weighed in.

"Don't get mesmerized by the apple," he said. "The apple is money. These [wind turbines] are money. Please don't let the illusion of big money, generated by these big machines, cloud your judgment in protecting the residents who are forced to live around these big machines. These same people, and these same families, who populate our schools and shop in our small towns are the ones who are trying to carve out a life out there. These are the same families that have elected you to protect them. Please don't bite the apple."

Shanelle Montana, project developer for the Rose Lake Wind Project in Faribault County, spoke on behalf of EDF and its proposed project, defending the company and its standards. Montana said the company encourages this type of conversation, hoping the citizens' questions were answered.

Monday, April 10, 2017

Conservation Groups Sue Over Proposed Turbine, OPSB Rejects Application For Offshore Wind Farm

A pair of bird conservation groups is suing the Ohio Air National Guard to halt the proposed construction of a wind turbine near Lake Erie.

The American Bird Conservancy and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory previously filed notices they intended to sue last year. The complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleges the project will violate the Endangered Species, Migratory Bird Treaty, the Bald and Golden

Eagle Protection, and the National Environmental Policy acts.

Named as defendants are U.S. Air Force Acting Secretary Lisa Disbrow, OANG Col. Andy Stephan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Jim Kurth, and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The groups are requesting the court force the government to prepare a new biological opinion, obtain new permitting under the MBTA and BGEPA laws and prepare a new environmental impact statement.

The filing argues the project will "impair the interest of" the groups and individuals who observe, study, enjoy and benefit from local birds. The project, they argue, "will be built by killing, harassing or otherwise taking birds in this unique migratory area."

The groups contend that an environmental assessment from the government shows the adverse impact the project is expected to have. That assessment states one of the project's purposes as studying the impact of wind energy on factors including the deaths of birds and bats as the result of such turbines.

"In short, the stated purpose of the project is to observe how many birds (and bats) - including numerous federally protected species - the turbine will kill by being placed in a crucial migratory pathway and globally important bird area so that ANG can then 'make recommendations,'" the lawsuit reads.

The OANG previously determined the project would not have a "significant impact" on the natural environment, according to a 2016 study.

Icebreaker: The Ohio Power Siting Board rejected the application of an unrelated project to construct an offshore windfarm

in Lake Erie, saying the application lacked sufficient information.

The six-turbine, 20 megawatt wind farm would be situated eight miles off the Cleveland coast and would mark the first freshwater wind farm in the nation.

But in a letter from OSPB Chairman Asim Haque, the board informed project members that the group's Feb. 1 application and its supplemental application March 13 failed to comply with administrative code.

That's because the applicants referred to two memorandums of understanding that were not included in the application materials. They include agreements on monitoring the project's impact on both fisheries and other aquatic resources and on birds and bats. (Docket)

"At such time as the applicant files in this proceeding copies of these two MOUs, signed by at least the applicant and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, staff will revisit its compliance determination," Mr. Haque wrote.

Applicants are prohibited from commencing construction on any part of the facility without a certificate from the board.

Opponents, including the aforementioned BSBO and ABC, have voiced concerns about the impact on wildlife and argued the project could be a stepping stone to thousands of turbines constructed on the lake.

"The combined scale of U.S. and Canadian wind aspirations for Lake Erie is at least 2,700 turbines, or about 9,300 MW," the groups said in comments. "It is therefore essential that every effort be made by LEEDCo to prepare a fundamentally sound, quantitative risk assessment of mortality to bird and bat species known to be in the area, especially protected species covered

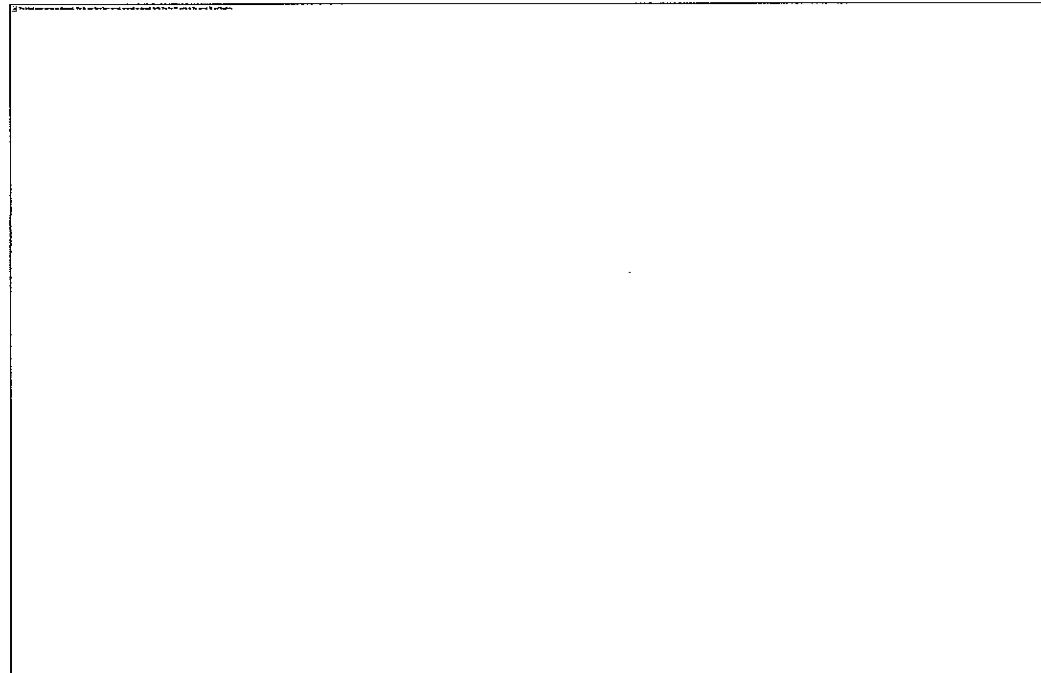
by the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and their Canadian equivalents."

But proponents, including Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), say the project will drive economic and environmental investment in the region.

"Ultimately, Icebreaker could position Cleveland as a central North American hub for the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry," Sen. Dolan wrote in public testimony filed last month.

http://www.cleveland.com/neobirding/index.ssf/2017/03/birding_groups_sue_ohio_air_na.html

Birding groups sue Ohio Air National Guard to block wind- turbine at Camp Perry



The Black Swamp Bird Observatory joined the American Bird Conservancy on Monday in a federal lawsuit to block construction of a wind turbine at Camp Perry due to fears it would destroy migrating birds and bats.

(Photo courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory)

By James F. McCarty The Plain Dealer
on March 27, 2017 at 4:35 PM

WASHINGTON, D.C. - State and national birding groups sued the Ohio Air National Guard on Monday, asking a federal court to block construction of a large wind turbine at Camp Perry near Lake Erie.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory, based in Oak Harbor in Ottawa County, suspects the proposed wind turbine would violate the Endangered Species Act, posing as a lethal bird-killing machine for bald eagles and migrating songbirds and bats.

BSBO joined with the American Bird Conservancy to file the 31-page lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington.

A spokeswoman for the Ohio Air National Guard declined to comment.

"We're not aware of the lawsuit, and would not be able to comment on any litigation," said Stephanie Beougher of the Adjutant General's Department.

Michael Hutchins, director of ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Energy Program, called the National Guard turbine project a "disaster," and "perhaps the worst possible place for wind energy development."

The planned construction site is located less than a mile from Lake Erie and situated in one of the largest confluences of migratory birds and bats in the world, Hutchins said. In addition to numerous bald eagle nests, the lakeshore in that area provides passage for endangered species such as Kirtland's warbler and piping plover.

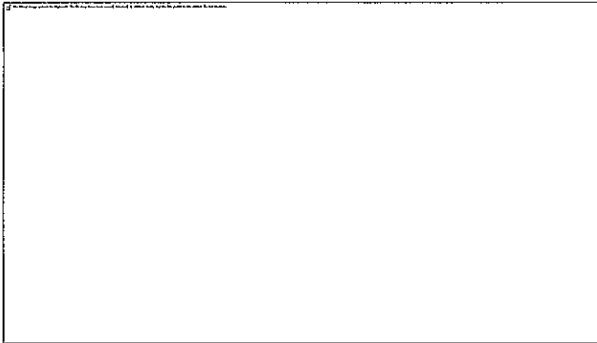
"We have many peer-reviewed studies documenting the impact of wind energy on birds and bats," said Kimberly Kaufman, BSBO's executive director. "And yet it takes a lawsuit to protect one of the most important migratory bird stopover habitats in the Western Hemisphere."

The birding groups are asking the court to halt the project until the National Guard obtains the proper permits and conducts environmental impact assessments required by the Endangered Species Act. In 2014, the BSBO and Bird Conservancy successfully halted construction of the 600-kilowatt wind turbine after determining the Air National Guard had failed to obtain the proper certifications.

The National Guard subsequently completed an environmental assessment and obtained permission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which the BSBO and Conservancy maintain are inadequate. The birding groups have cited a new radar study that shows vast numbers of migratory birds and bats move through the area, flying at altitudes that would bring them within the 198-foot rotor-swept zone of the Camp Perry turbine.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/>

Commentary: Wind turbines around the Great Lakes? A terrible idea for birds, bats



Wind Power
Jens Dresling /
AP
Wind turbines
at Flakfortet
near
Copenhagen.
**Michael
Hutchins**

The rush is on to build scores of large, commercial wind energy facilities in and around the Great Lakes, in Canada and the United States. From the proposed Galloo Island and Lighthouse projects in New York to Camp Perry and Icebreaker in Ohio and Amherst Island and White Pines in Ontario, developers are looking to flood the region with renewable energy. But at what cost? Many see renewable energy, including wind energy, as an important way to cut our dependence on fossil fuels and address global climate change. But this "green" revolution has a dark side. Collisions with wind turbines are killing hundreds of thousands of birds and bats annually. When you include collisions and electrocutions at associated power lines and towers, the number of birds killed climbs into the tens of millions. These impacts are likely to grow along with the number of turbines and power lines constructed, a number that is increasing rapidly. American Bird Conservancy estimates that by 2050, when wind energy is projected to produce 35 percent of our electrical energy, as many as 5 million birds per year could be killed by turbines in the United States alone. From the perspective of wildlife conservation, the Great Lakes are one of the worst possible places to put wind energy. During spring and fall, these large

freshwater lakes pose a significant barrier to birds and bats during their annual migration to and from the boreal forests of Canada where they breed. Vast numbers of birds and bats, many of which migrate at night, gather along the shorelines and eventually fly along or over the lakes. Advanced radar studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Michigan, Ohio and New York have all confirmed the danger that large-scale wind energy development poses to migratory birds and bats in the region.

The Great Lakes themselves are also an important habitat for water birds. Lake Erie was recently designated a Globally Important Bird Area because of the large numbers of water birds that use the lake. Large-scale commercial wind turbines have the potential to threaten or displace them. Only through proper risk assessment, siting and post-construction monitoring can such conflicts with wildlife be avoided or contained. At present, regulations governing siting are weak at best. Paid consultants to the wind industry conduct the risk assessments and also collect and report post-construction mortality data — a direct conflict of interest. Some companies have sued to keep their data secret, making public oversight difficult if not impossible.

If any area in the United States and Canada should be avoided for wind energy development, it is the Great Lakes region, one of the world's largest confluences of migratory birds and bats. The cumulative impact of the many existing and planned projects in the region could be substantial and cannot be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We must make clean energy a priority, but how we do it is important. Our ecologically and economically important birds and bats

should not be collateral damage in our battle against climate change.

Michael Hutchins is director of the American Bird Conservancy's Bird-Smart Wind Energy campaign.

Statehouse News

April 7, 2017

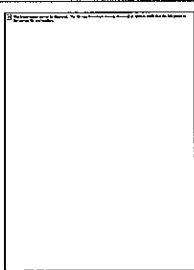
New Member Profile: Riedel To Pursue Decentralized Government, Competitive Economy

Craig Riedel had longer than most freshman lawmakers to prepare for his first day in the Ohio House - something he says he didn't take for granted.

The Defiance Republican toppled incumbent Tony Burkley in the March 2016 primary and, with no Democratic challenger, got a free pass in the general election.

He used the extra time to form relationships with his new constituents and use their feedback to hone his legislative agenda, he said.

"It was very, very beneficial for me to have that time where instead of having to worry about running in the November general election I was able to focus most of my time and energy on just getting around...and getting to know more people within my district," he said in an interview.



Rep. Riedel

Rep. Riedel, 50, represents the 82nd District, which is a conservative area of northwest Ohio covering Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

He and his constituents are most interested in policies that would rejuvenate the economy in that region and the entire state, he said.

Having worked at Nucor Corporation for 27 years, the lawmaker said he'd always been focused on attracting businesses to the state and keeping them here. However, he was inspired further through his campaigning, which included knocking on about 4,600 doors.

"We walked through parts of communities that we would have never walked through. That was very sobering to me and my wife because we didn't realize the amount of poverty we have here in northwest Ohio. It's much more severe than I ever imagined," Mr. Riedel said.

"That just reinforced my passion to help people and I think I can help people by bringing better paying jobs to Ohio and northwest Ohio."

His strategies for doing so will include allowing the free market to take control and reducing "unnecessary, burdensome" regulations on businesses, particularly when they hinder growth.

Rep. Riedel said he's a proponent of right-to-work and recently introduced legislation (HB 163) that would permit cities to opt out of prevailing wage.

"It's all about making Ohio more competitive, particularly where I live up here...there are border counties with Indiana and we are in a constant battle with the state of Indiana for good paying jobs, manufacturing jobs."

When it comes to giving control back to local communities or businesses, Rep.

Riedel said: "I feel that way about everything."

"I just think we govern best when more decisions are made on a local level," he said.

Rep. Riedel said he's opposed to requiring schools to implement Common Core learning standards and will do his best to ensure taxes aren't increased at the state level.

His wife of 28 years, Danette, is his best counsel when it comes to developing policy and responding to constituent concerns, Rep. Riedel said. Both have forgone other occupations to make the General Assembly a top priority for their family.

"She's been a tremendous help to me with her consultation and her outlook on things. This really is a team effort," he said.

He and his wife have two children, both who graduated from Ohio State University. An OSU alumnus himself, Rep. Riedel said his family are faithful Buckeyes fans and are football season ticket holders.



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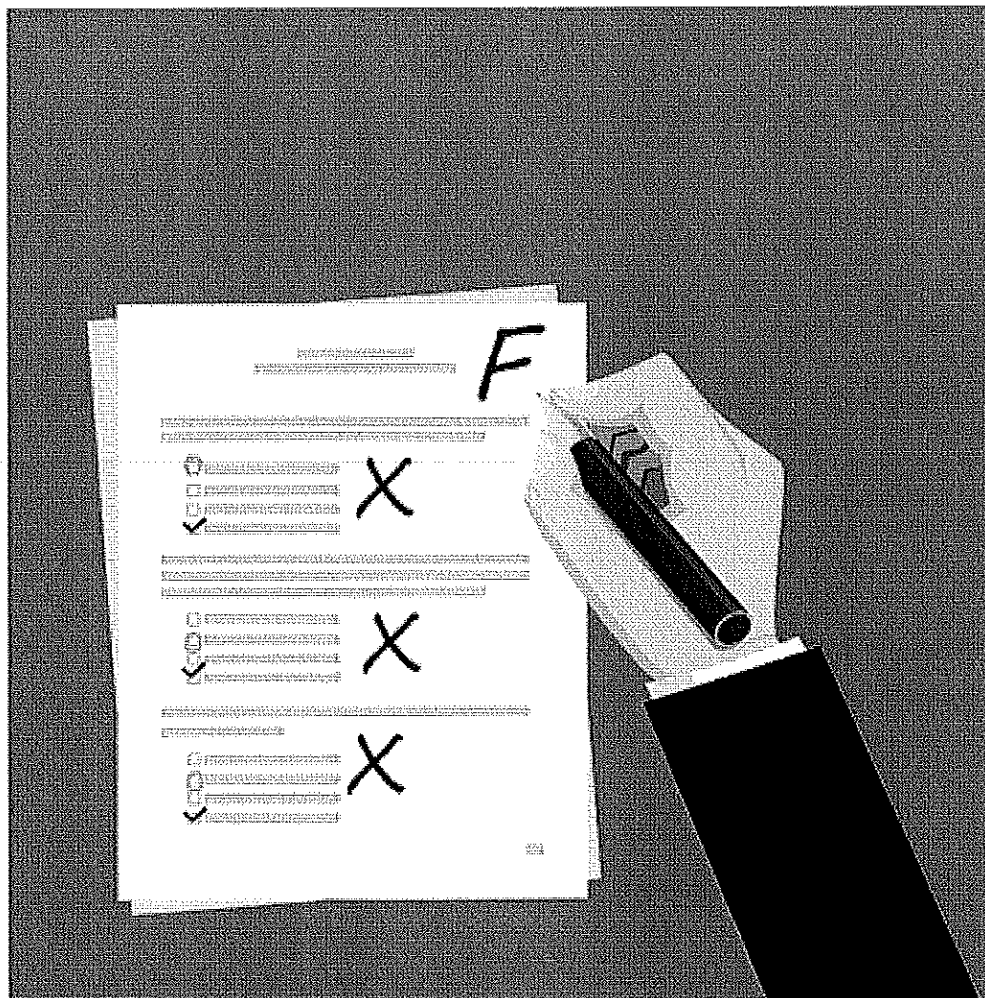
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Subject: A-Rod looks to win at business without his baseball mistakes

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July 26, 2017

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How you spend your time and money reveals your values

Matching up work goals to personal values can lead to a sense of meaning and drive, writes Susan Fowler. Identify your true values by asking yourself how you spend your money and time.

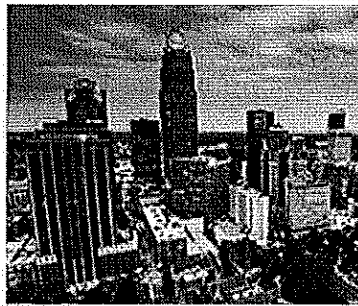
[SmartBrief/Leadership](#) (7/25)



Survey: Millennials value CEOs who take public stands

Millennials are most likely to look favorably on CEOs who speak up on key social issues, according to a report from Weber Shandwick and KRC Research. A CEO sharing such views would gain loyalty from 44% of millennials surveyed.

[MediaPost Communications](#) (7/25), [The Washington Post](#) (tiered subscription model) (7/24)



N.C. has U.S.' No. 2 lowest unionization rate

As a right-to-work state with a perennially low union membership rate – an average of 3 percent during the past 10 years – North Carolina offers low-cost labor in one of the country's largest and fastest growing markets.

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STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT

Achiever

Tips for winning customer loyalty through a subscription model

A subscription-based business model is attractive but requires deep relationships and the ability to deliver strong customer service and ongoing value, writes Zuora CEO Tien Tzuo. The importance of the subscriber relationship will also dictate changes in data collection, metrics and customer journey, he notes.

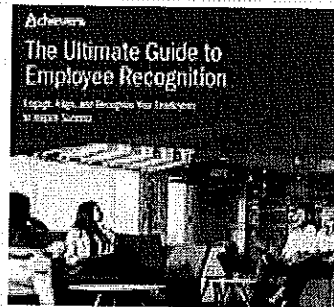
[INSEAD Knowledge](#) (7/21)



How brands can stand out in a mobile world

The ascent of mobile technology plus thoroughly mobile millennials and Gen Z, accompanied by the rise of shopping algorithms, may cause brands to risk being lost in the crowd. Davor Sutija explores ways to avoid this fate, such as engaging younger consumers with interactive ways to shop.

= A Marketing Land (7/21) = A



The Ultimate Guide to Employee Recognition

Want to learn how to create a meaningful strategy that will yield higher levels of employee retention and engagement?

Read "[The Ultimate Guide to Employee Recognition](#)" to learn about the case for employee recognition, how to secure management buy in, how to create a recognition program road map and implement a program.

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SMARTER COMMUNICATION

Your speech is not just your words

Once you realize that your speech isn't just about the words you're saying, you can look to make the most of images, videos and props, writes Jim Anderson. Practice your material until you can deliver in a conversational, genuine style that establishes rapport with your listeners.

[The Accidental Communicator](#) (7/25)



CUSTOMERS FIRST

A weekly look at serving customers better

Here are the principles of putting customers first

From: Kasych, Shawn
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 8:22 AM
To: Rep30
Subject: Re: Wind News - Ohio Setbacks in Play

The Speaker told the advocates (at least Amazon) not to expect this in the budget and that they should run a stand alone bill if they want to have their day in court.

Shawn Kasych
Majority Policy Director
614.466.0863

On Apr 12, 2017, at 7:51 AM, Rep30 <Rep30@ohiohouse.gov> wrote:

Please read every word of this long chain. There is no way on God's Green Earth that we should even consider for a millisecond changing the wind setbacks in the budget. Any of you that want to discuss this topic, I am game but not in the budget and the ardor to change them should be tempered by what you read below.

From: Kevon Martis <kevon@kevonmartis.com>
Date: April 11, 2017 at 9:04:53 PM EDT
To: julia johnson <juliejohnson@ctcn.net>, "Seitz, William" <william.seitz@dinsmore.com>
Subject: Re: Wind News - Ohio Setbacks in Play

A "flier"???? IT's from the f***** Michigan State University Extension, Greening Michigan Institute, Government and Public Policy Team!!!! That's the best they have?

MSE extension educates every planning commissioner in the State of Michigan!

Sorry...tired.

On 4/11/2017 8:52 PM, julia johnson wrote:

Friends,

We regret that a series of computer malfunctions left us out of communication over the past two weeks. During that time the wind industry lobby has been working to get the Ohio Senate to insert a provision in the budget bill rolling back the current property line setback. At the same time, Rep. Bill Seitz has suggested that some kind of compromise on setbacks may need to be inserted in the mandate repeal bill (HB 114) when it is considered in the Senate. Seitz tells us that might be the cost of getting a veto-proof majority of Senate votes necessary to override a veto by Governor Kasich. As we understand it, a setback-related amendment to HB 114 would give township trustees the power to override current setbacks. When asked about conflicts of interest, Rep. Seitz said, *"Under my proposal, the trustees could not vote if they were participating leaseholders. My guess is that letting the trustees override the state setbacks would not result in much change as the people in the township would likely pressure them to not approve it."* What we do not know at this point is whether the township trustees would be given the opportunity to lengthen setbacks as well as shorten them.

AWEA and the environmentalists are working hard to reverse protective setbacks. What we hope does not happen, is that the current setbacks are changed AND the township trustees are given authority to put them back only to preexisting property line measurements. There seems to be no dialog on noise or shadow flicker just distance.

In the meantime, during the past two weeks the press has reported setback controversies in Michigan, South Dakota,

Rhode Island, Minnesota and Colorado. And those are just the stories we noticed.

We also draw your attention to the LeedCo Icebreaker project (aka taxpayer boondoggle) in Lake Erie. The OPSB did not accept the application as complete and has requested the LeedCo resubmit. Today the American Bird Conservancy wrote in the Chicago Tribune that all turbines should be kept out of the Great Lakes due to enormous projections of migratory slaughter. We understand that many, many people wrote comments in opposition to the LeedCo project. Now that the application must be submitted, we are told all those comments will be lost and the public will have to start over.

We are glad to be back on line and urge everyone to call their local legislators to counter the spin coming from AWEA. Cut and paste the articles about problems in other states to demonstrate these problems are real.

Diane and Julie

PS We include at the very bottom a profile of first term Ohio Rep. Craig Riedel from Defiance.

Ohio Statehouse News
April 11, 2017 OHIO

Wind, Environmental Groups Eyeing Senate For Budget Amendment To Reduce Wind Setback

A coalition of wind energy advocates is laying the groundwork for a budget effort to reduce Ohio's turbine setback once the two-year spending measure arrives in the Senate.

Advocates said in interviews they believe senators are more amenable to their proposal to revert the setback to what it was before lawmakers increased it to 1,125 feet in a 2014 mid-biennium review budget bill, effectively killing new wind farm development.

At the same time, members of both House caucuses submitted proposed budget amendments last week offering several options to reduce the current setback.

A proposal from Rep. Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), for instance, would reduce the setback to one-and-a-half times the height of the turbine. Although not as lenient as the pre-2014 setback, he believes it's a "good compromise" between the two sides.

"Wind is a big resource in my district and I've had a lot of requests for those setbacks to be looked at," Rep. Reineke said. "It increases it slightly over what it was pre-2014. And it changes some of the hearing requirements for the neighbors to be able to sign off if they would choose to do so. It gives it a little bit more flexibility."

Rep. Reineke said he believes there's an appetite in the House to reexamine the issue.

Whether any of those amendments will make it into the House's substitute budget (HB 49) bill expected to be unveiled April

25 is yet to be seen. But even if the House chooses to pass on the issue, advocates believe the Senate may be more willing to act.

"I certainly think there's a possibility of it (happening)," said Dayna Baird Payne, who represents the American Wind Energy Association and other proponents. "I think there is some openness in the Senate currently."

She credits much of that openness to Sen. Cliff Hite (R-Findlay), whose district would likely contain any new wind development. But advocates say the Senate overall has greater institutional knowledge of the issue and offers an easier route to generate a consensus given its smaller size.

"I think there's some understanding on that leadership team this is an issue about economic development and removing an artificial market barrier," Ms. Payne said. "If a company wants to build a wind project, locals want that project and an end user wants to purchase that wind, this stands in the way and prevents it."

The Sierra Club and the Ohio Environmental Council are among other groups hoping for a setback change in the Senate. At the same time, they continue pushing back against a Michigan State University document some Republican representatives have said justifies an additional increase in the setback.

Rep Keith Faber (R-Celina) and Rep. Bill Seitz (R-Cincinnati) have repeatedly pointed to the document in recent weeks, saying that if the legislature really wants to take the issue back up it should increase the setback to 2,500 feet.

Wind supporters, though, point out that what the lawmakers have called a "study" is referred to as a "flier" by its author and that it states a setback equal to the tower's height would be adequate. Under that rationale, they said, the state's previous setback would suffice.

"We're watching this issue," OEC General Counsel Trent Dougherty said. "Obviously, we don't believe there should be even more of an increase...so we're watching for that and expressing our opposition."

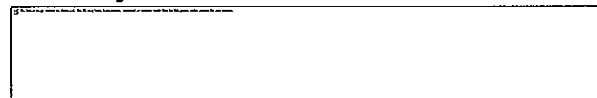
Sierra Club Ohio Chapter Director Jen Miller called the idea "ridiculous," since turbine development has already come to a virtual halt under the current setback.

"Eighty percent of wind in Ohio is actually serving markets outside of Ohio," Ms. Miller said. "We should just be fixing our problem now. We've already zoned ourselves out of the wind business."

<http://www.marion-press.com/2017/03/wind-turbines-unsafe-at-any-distance/>

The Marion Press - MICHIGAN
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

"Wind Turbines: Unsafe at any distance"



Dear Editor:

Last December, one of the turbines at the Stoney Corners wind facility burst into flames and was completely destroyed. Black smoke darkened the sky and heavy winds spread ash and burning particles on

fields and properties nearby. For days the acrid odor of smoldering composites lingered in the air and seeped into my home along with several other homes in the area of the fire.

By the next day, what was left of the turbine was hauled off and some of the contaminated top soil was bulldozed into a pile where it still sits, three months later. What assurance is there that contaminants from the burned turbine are not filtering into the groundwater below?

Heritage Sustainable Energy, who owns the project, told the local press that turbine fires have never happened before in McBain. That may be so, but as a wind developer, Heritage is well aware that fire is the second largest cause of turbine failure worldwide and the problem is growing. Heritage touts wind power as clean and emission free but no one ever mentions the toxic pollutants released when the blades and other parts of the nacelle are ignited or the hazards of inhaling the gas and particles emitted by the fire.

"More than ten of the 28 Heritage turbines are sited within two miles of my home with the closest just 1700 feet away." Back in 2008 when I agreed to sign a contract with Heritage, something I deeply regret, no one informed me of the dangers of living so close to the spinning towers. I can tell you first hand that wind turbines are not safe for humans, animals, birds of all sorts, the environment, or your electric bill. They are Not Green, Not Clean and Not Cheap.

If the state and its legislators continue to blindly insist that wind turbines are safe, they should advocate projects be sited on

State and Federal land away from communities where they pollute our countryside and put people and property at risk.

There are alternatives to wind power that do not carry the same dangers and that are safer for humans, animals, birds and our countryside. Be warned and say "no" to wind power in your community.

Dianne Ziegler

<http://www.faribaultcountyregister.com/page/content.detail/id/512142/Fighting-the-winds-of-change.html>

Fighting the winds of change Pilot Grove Township residents want stricter wind ordinance

April 9, 2017

Cody Benjamin - Register Staff

Writer Faribault County

Register **MINNESOTA**

When the Coalition for Rural Property Rights stormed the Faribault County Courthouse on Tuesday, it was not an officially licensed organization.

But in claiming support from nearly 90 percent of Pilot Grove Township residents, overflowing the county commissioners room with agricultural advocates and literally standing in unison to plead for greater setbacks and a more restrictive ordinance pertaining to wind turbines in the county, it made its stance as official as could be.

The Coalition brands itself as "a group of Iowa landowners standing against the encroachment of industrial wind installations," but its representatives at Tuesday's meeting mostly identified themselves as Pilot Grove residents particularly ones perturbed at a Rose Lake Wind Project proposed by the independent power producer EDF Renewable Energy.

The Faribault County Board meeting room was overflowing last Tuesday, when residents of Pilot Grove Township and others testified before the commissioners about their concerns about wind turbine development.

With at least four locals reading prepared statements, several others chiming in from behind walls of other guests and the County Board forced to oversee crowded seating arrangements as much as the discussion at hand, the Coalition prefaced a visit from EDF's Shanelle Montana, a senior project developer, with adamant requests for a crackdown on turbines.

Not one of the guest speakers denied the financial benefit of wind generation, which Montana went on to crown as "an additional resource" for "cheap electricity" and therefore an obvious draw for local businesses. But complaints of everything from noisy turbine malfunctions to an alleged ignorance of the county's agricultural roots rang loud and clear as the Coalition suggested the commissioners adopt the Goodhue County wind-structure ordinance, which enforces greater setbacks than that of Faribault County's renewable energy restrictions.

Paul Carr, who said he has mostly been a lifelong Pilot Grove Township resident,

helped kick off the campaign. "I come here," Carr said, "representing and on behalf of about 88 percent of Pilot Grove Township residents, who have signed a petition to increase a setback of commercial wind generators to non-participating residences."

Saying that current setbacks, which dictate that wind turbines can be placed roughly 1,000 to 1,500 feet from such residences, are "not far enough to prevent material harm" such as added noise, shadow flicker and "a complete change of environment," Carr asked that local constituents be prioritized over the economic boosts of projects like the one proposed by EDF.

Montana later countered by suggesting the EDF project, which would span from Pilot Grove Township into Martin County, would not begin taking shape until 2020. By that point, such a project would not be federally subsidized, therefore potentially lessening the financial burden on local communities.

But concerns remained.

"Most object to an object roughly the size of a Boeing 747, over 400 feet in the air and constantly moving, being placed within 1,000 to roughly 1,500 feet of them," Carr said. "Without more setbacks for large wind turbines, the county may find itself with more money to spend on a public garage (only) to serve its fewer residents."

Carolyn Zierke, a local agronomist of 25 years, wondered aloud why counties, especially Faribault County, would even consider uprooting or impeding upon signature farmlands for the sake of wind projects.

"Why are counties overlaying an industrial zone on top of a productive agricultural zone?" she asked. "A turbine is not a piece of farm equipment, and it is not a farm structure."

Dan Moore, once a director of project development for Renewable Energy Solutions and one of the developers behind Blue Earth's Big Blue Windfarm, agreed.

"I sat here in this same seat 14 years ago," Moore said, referencing a decades-old visit to the County Board regarding turbine development. "Today, I am here as a retired wind generator developer ... and I am asking for the adoption of the Goodhue County ordinance."

Reviewing his own history in campaigning for wind energy, Moore reminded the board that he helped other turbines, including those at Winnebago's Corn Plus ethanol plant, come to life.

But after discovering some of the faults of turbine projects, particularly noisy side effects, he made it clear Tuesday that he was standing with none other than the waves of Pilot Grove people behind him. "Had I known they would be this noisy, guys," he said, referring to the Big Blue turbines, "listen, I would never have started developing that project."

Producing an apple from his shirt pocket and leaving it on the guest podium in front of the commissioners, Moore asked the board to overlook promises of more money for the concerns of the rural residents. "Don't get mesmerized by the apple money," he said. "Don't let the illusion of big money generated by these big machines cloud your judgment in

protecting the residents who are forced to live around these big machines. These are the families that have elected you guys to protect them, so please don't bite the apple."

Others reiterated the alluring, albeit apparently deceiving, role of money in the matter.

"In the end, it seems like the money always wins," one man said from the mass of guests, saying the county already houses 22 industrial-sized turbines. "EDF is on the agenda after us, and I'm sure they're going to tell you how great this is, how every project they've built has left counties rich and happy, because that's what this big push for wind is all about money."

When Montana, of EDF, was finally summoned to speak, weaving through the crowd of standing guests to make herself seen, she did not ignore money's part in the discussion.

But her first point centered on the fact that EDF will not pursue any project, let alone one that allegedly threatens the well-being of nearly an entire township, without the community's support.

"I'm not here to shove a project down anyone's throat," Montana said, recounting her own upbringing as a "farm girl." "I'm just here to present something. We're only here if we have a willing partner, and that partner is a community."

Claiming that the state of Minnesota already owns some of the strictest wind turbine setbacks in the country, Montana assured some of the concerned residents that if any malfunctioning or noisy

structures reached certain decibel levels, they would be shut down.

"A decommissioning plan is required with these projects," she noted.

All things considered, Montana still urged the commissioners to weigh their options. "This is up to the community," she said. "I just want you to know that if you have an additional setback, I cannot efficiently and effectively develop a low-cost project."

Pilot Grove visitors flocked to the EDF developer after departing the commissioners room, some alleging that a February public meeting on the proposed turbine project was available through "private invitation only," and others saying they heard EDF partners are contracted not to speak negatively about polarizing projects.

But more talks regarding the future of the project, and the ordinance that might inhibit it, are on the docket.

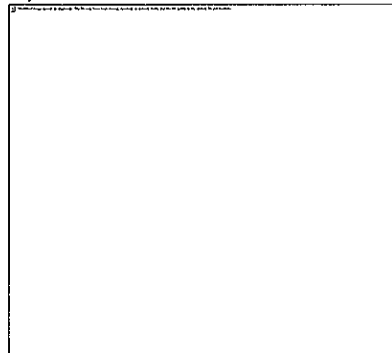
Commissioner Greg Young, who acknowledged most of the concerns stemmed from a township he represents, agreed with board chairman John Roper that a work session with the county's Planning and Zoning department was in order. A unanimous vote by the commissioners then scheduled that session for April 18, immediately following the board's next regular meeting.

And now, having shared or considered opinions from both sides of a windy spectrum, the county, Montana and the Coalition for Rural Property Rights wait.

http://www.starbeacon.com/news/local_news/conneaut-wind-turbine-facing-uncertain-future/article_2ca4767c-b0e9-5bd2-9215-22d8377023fc.html

Conneaut wind turbine facing uncertain future

By MARK TODD OHIO



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

An arm of a Conneaut Harbor wind turbine was severed by lightning last month.

CONNEAUT — A wind turbine severely damaged by lightning late last month is facing an uncertain future on Conneaut's lakefront.

At Monday's City Council meeting, City Manager James Hockaday said the turbine's owner, NexGen Energy, wants a long-term renewal of its contract with the city before it will proceed with repairs.

The 400-kilowatt turbine was constructed in January 2010 to provide some of the electricity used by the city's sewage treatment plant. On Feb. 25, lightning blew apart one of the turbine's blades. A power surge from the blast also damaged some equipment and fixtures inside the plant.

A contract with NexGen obliges the city to buy electricity generated by the turbine for 10 years. The contract expires in 2020.

Hockaday said NexGen estimates repairs to the turbine will cost \$250,000. To make the fix-up financially feasible for NexGen, the company would require an extension to its contract with the city, he told council.

A contract proposal is being prepared and will be shared with council when it's delivered, Hockaday said. If no agreement on a contract extension is reached, the city would ask the turbine be disassembled and removed.

NexGen said the damage to the turbine was among the most severe the company has experienced, Hockaday said Monday. The extent of damage to the plant is still being assessed, he said.

The biggest concern is a blower motor on one piece of equipment that is not working properly.

In August 2011, 18 months after the turbine was installed, lightning damaged a blade that was replaced several months later.

A NexGen spokesperson could not be reached for comment.

Another NexGen wind turbine, a 600-kilowatt model adjacent to Conneaut Middle School on Gateway Avenue, has been idle for years. NexGen is suing the manufacturer, alleging parts were defective. The turbine, designed to provide electricity to CMS, never performed as

planned since it went online in late 2009, according to the lawsuit, filed in 2013.

Repairs to the school turbine won't happen until the lawsuit is settled, NexGen officials said at the time.

<http://gazette.com/reassurances-fail-to-convince-some-neighbors-el-paso-county-wind-farm-is-safe/article/1599581>

Reassurances fail to convince some neighbors El Paso County wind farm is safe

By: Rachel Riley

March 23, 2017 Updated: March 24, 2017
at 6:21 am COLORADO

Residents living by a wind farm near Calhan say the turbines are affecting their health and harming animals, despite reassurances from experts at this week's El Paso County commissioners' meeting.

Jeff Wolfe, who lives close to NextEra Energy's Golden West wind farm, said he's experienced nausea, dizziness and migraines since it began operating in fall 2015. He attributes the symptoms to the low-frequency sound waves, known as infrasound, emitted by the 145 windmills.

"This is poisoning people. It's poisoning animals," said Wolfe, who has lived at his home between Yoder and Calhan for 20 years. He also blames the turbines for the cardiovascular problems his wife has begun to experience and the death of seven of their animals, including five dogs.

At the meeting, intended to provide commissioners and residents with an update on the wind farm, county staff and NextEra officials presented reports on the sound levels of the windmills and the flickering effect, known as "shadow flicker," that occurs when the sun shines through the turbines' rotating blades. A half-dozen residents also had the chance to air their grievances about the wind farm, approved by commissioners in 2013, which has long been a source of controversy.

Experts told commissioners that study after study has shown the infrasound generated by windmills isn't hazardous to humans, and the levels of infrasound and amount of shadow flicker created by the turbines are in compliance with local regulations and zoning rules.

John Dailey, senior business manager for the Florida-based energy company, said the company has received 83 complaints about the project since March 2015, a month after commissioners OK'd a change to the original construction plan that included a 29-mile above-ground power line.

About 70 of the complaints were made during the seven months the farm was being built and mostly involved construction-related concerns about noise and dust. Of the roughly 15 others that have been made since the \$400 million project was completed, more than half have been resolved, Dailey said.

"I think that's a pretty good track record," he told commissioners.

Assessor Steve Schleiker also presented data from June through January showing property values in the area have not fallen

due to the wind farm. Properties sold within a one-mile radius of the turbines and transmission line went for prices well above market values. He also cited numbers from the Pikes Peak Multiple Listing Service that showed that average sale prices of single family homes in the Calhan and Ramah area increased by about 45.5 percent between February 2016 and February 2017.

"Bottom line, it's all good news," he told commissioners.

A consultant with environmental engineering and consulting firm Epsilon Associates, hired by NextEra to conduct studies on sound levels and shadow flicker that were required by its agreement with the county, presented the firm's findings.

One report, which measured noise levels at 15 different locations near the wind farm, concluded that the turbines do not exceed the noise limit set by county ordinance. The second report, which used a computerized model to measure the duration of shadow flicker experienced by homes near the farm, stated that most of the homes experience less than the 30-hour-per-year maximum imposed by county regulations. The two exceptions were homes that are not included in the requirement because their owners have voluntary agreements with the company.

While research has linked high levels of infrasound to symptoms such as headache and nausea, the levels created by the turbines are too low to pose health risks, said Chris Ollson, an environmental health scientist who spoke at the meeting.

But residents who testified during the public comment part of the meeting dismissed the data, saying the infrasound and shadow flicker are still taking a toll.

"It's changed our life dramatically," said Joe Cobb, who lives close to the wind farm. "And I don't care how many experts come up here and tell me it's perfectly normal. It's not perfectly normal."

Several of the complaints the company has yet to resolve were made by people who spoke at the meeting, said Steve Stengel, director of communications for NextEra. "We will continue to seek a satisfactory resolution with these individuals," Stengel said in an email following the meeting.

Commissioner Darryl Glenn said his colleagues and county staff would review residents' concerns and some of the research that was provided by objectors.

Glenn also encouraged residents to use the formal complaint process, outlined in NextEra's contract with the county, to express their concerns about the effects of the windmills.

Under the terms of the contract, commissioners have the option to "require additional and reasonable mitigation or remedial actions" if NextEra does not adequately address complaints.

<http://www.krdo.com/news/top-stories/calhan-wind-farm-situation-remains-unresolved/411990993>

Calhan wind farm situation remains unresolved

Nextera says turbines are within safety guidelines

By: Scott Harrison

Posted: Mar 23, 2017 06:38 PM

MDT COLORADO

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. - An El Paso County commissioner said Thursday that safety and health concerns regarding the Nextera wind farm in Calhan may never be resolved to everyone's satisfaction.


"I don't know that it's within our authority to consider at this point in time," said Commissioner Mark Waller. "It's been approved. The process has already taken place to allow Nextera to operate a wind farm."

Ever since the wind farm opened last fall, a small but vocal group of current and former neighbors has expressed concern that noise, other types of sound called infrasound and shadow flicker from turbine blades have sickened people and animals.

"I had to move away because I was sick," said Jeff Wolfe. "My wife stays behind to care for our animals and she's getting sick. I put my life savings into our home."

Wolfe said 10 to 15 families have moved away from Calhan because of the situation.

Commissioners on Thursday held a hearing on the matter that lasted nearly four hours.

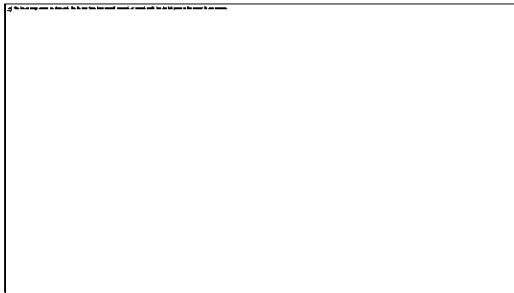


John Dailey, a Nextera spokesman, declined an interview request from KRDO NewsChannel 13 to explain what else besides the wind farm could be affecting health.

But in a presentation during the hearing, Dailey cited Nextera studies, and research from two consultants, which state the wind farm is well within the health and safety guidelines established in the company's permit from the county.

"Generally speaking, (any) complaints (or) impacts have been attributed to infrasound, which is a form of noise," he said. "We've received complaints of that nature from four or five individuals -- some of them, multiple times."

Several Nextera critics said they conducted their own research, including a study by a Boulder-based acoustics expert who suggested the wind farm should close.



Commissioners said they don't have enough information yet to decide what, if any, action to take.

"We're going to hold Nextera accountable to make sure they're meeting their obligations," Waller said. "We're trying to be unbiased about the situation. This is the first time we as a commission (with two new members) are learning about the history of the situation and the level of concern."

At an undetermined future hearing, commissioners said they want to learn more about how Nextera responds to complaints from neighbors.

Some neighbors said Nextera is slow to respond or hasn't responded at all, and criticized commissioners for their lack of action.

Commissioners Darryl Glenn and Longinos Gonzalez Jr., both asked upset neighbors to follow an established complaint process.

"It's extremely important because it's an obligation that we're held to," Glenn said. "We can't hold Nextera responsible for not doing what they're (supposed to) if the complaint hasn't been submitted (properly)."

Dailey said Nextera will work harder to communicate with affected neighbors, and that the company wants to see the results of the private research presented at the hearing.

The wind farm has 145 turbines and a 29-mile transmission line. The company sells electricity to Xcel Energy.

http://www.ricentral.com/coventry_courier/residents-complain-of-issues-with-turbines/article_32004724-1028-11e7-9df6-5762fa374322.html

Residents complain of issues with turbines

Kendra Lollo Mar 23, 2017 RHODE ISLAND

COVENTRY — Citing increasing concerns from constituents in her ward regarding Wind Energy Development's newly-installed wind turbines, Councilwoman Karen Carlson made a public plea this week with town officials to "take notice and listen."

The District 1 councilwoman read excerpts of correspondence she had received from residents surrounding the turbines.

"Our dream of sitting outside behind our house enjoying some peace and quiet no longer exists," said a resident of Flat River Road. "We sit on the deck at night and all we can hear are the windmills. We open our bedroom window and all we can hear are the windmills. There is not one day that goes by that we don't hear it. The ones who benefit from it don't have to deal with the effects of these windmills."

Carlson quoted another resident of West Long Bridge Road, who said they were experiencing issues with shadow flicker from the propellers of the turbine, particularly when the sun is setting. The home owner requested that the turbines be shut down during that time on a daily basis, citing the town's existing wind energy ordinance.

"During the time of shadow flicker, the wind energy facility shall be shut down so as to eliminate shadow flicker issues," the ordinance reads. "The presence of shadow flicker shall be measured at the property boundary lines and at locations within 2,500 feet of the wind energy facility."

The ordinance also indicates that the applicant, when proposing the turbines, is required to prove that the flicker effect will not have "significant adverse impact" on the neighboring properties.

"I'd like to know what the hell we're going to do about this," Carlson said, apologizing for the language. "These are tax payers. They're not getting anything from these turbines, and it's time to take notice and listen. We need to do it now."

Carlson also pointed out that the town's own noise ordinance says that excessive noise degrades quality of life.

"For the people who move out to Greene and Western Coventry, they're out there because they want a country rural lifestyle without a lot of noise," she said.

Town Manager Graham Waters said that he has referred the complaints to the zoning department, and some even to DePasquale himself, who Waters said requested to be put in contact with residents who experience issues with the turbines.

"I've made no qualms about interfering on behalf of residents," Waters said. "But I feel that if Mr. DePasquale can intervene first and take care of their issues directly and have a direct line of conversation with

them, I think that would be the most beneficial.”

“We’re not supposed to rely on him to do something for the residents when we already have an ordinance,” Carlson replied.

Waters said that because the turbines were constructed in May of 2016 and have just recently come online, he has been referring complaints to the zoning department for further investigation.

The same homeowner who reached out to Carlson regarding the shadow flicker also informed her that water from the wetland abutting their property was backing up and overflowing a segment of a nearby access road under which Wind Energy Development had installed a conduit for the turbines. The resident feared that the continued erosion of the road would lead to exposure of the electrical conduit which was installed in October of 2015. When the individual contacted DePasquale, they were told a depression would be made in the newly installed road to allow for proper drainage, but it was never actually made.

“The culvert that Wind Energy constructed has become blocked, causing the water to back up and flow over the road itself, washing out the dirt and gravel covering the road.”

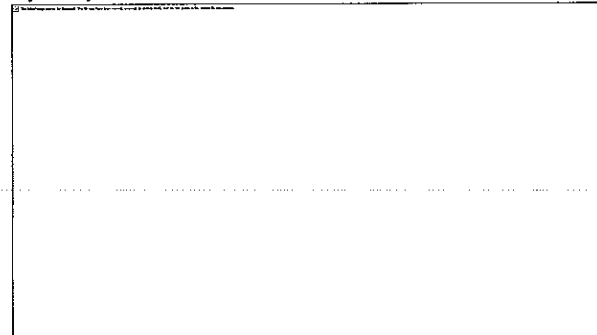
Carlson said the Department of Environmental Management was able to acquire a cease and desist notice because Wind Energy Development was not issued permits to modify the wetland in the area. She called the incident “disturbing,” and asked that a town official conduct an inspection of the area.

"What I would like a zoning official to go out there and finally look at this," she said. "Somebody from the town should be there checking our Chapter 200 which is our soil erosion chapter."

<http://www.kdlt.com/2017/04/04/lincoln-county-increases-restrictions-wind-turbines/>

Lincoln County Increases Restrictions For Wind Turbines

April 4, 2017 SOUTH DAKOTA
Sydney Kern



CANTON, S.D. – It was a tough night for a company that wants to build a wind farm in Lincoln County.

County commissioners approved some zoning changes.

Dakota Power Community Wind wants to build a farm with nearly 300 turbines.

But commissioners voted to put some tougher restrictions on how quiet they have to be. Dakota Power wanted a top noise limit of 65 decibels, but commissioners set the limit at 45 decibels.

The company says that is unrealistic based on a study they conducted testing the current noise in the county.

"The noise level ranged from 36.4. DBA to 51.3 DBA, so in some areas the decibel level was already exceeded before we even did anything," says Rob Johnson, with Dakota Power Community Wind. Commissioners also discussed a second zoning change.

This one dealt with the setback distance, which is how far the turbines have to be from public roads and homes.

The current distance is 1,320 ft., or three times the height of the turbine.

The Planning Commission recommended increasing it to 5,200 ft., or one mile.

The county commissioners said this decision is the toughest they'll have to make, since it could determine whether or not Canton and surrounding cities could grow in the future.

They decided to table it for now, so they can look into more research on the topic.

Dakota Power Community Wind says they can deal with the noise restrictions, though it will make their project much more difficult.

But they said if the county adds setback restrictions, then they will have to kill the project.

<http://northcountrynow.com/news/citizens-opposed-parishville-and-hopkinton-wind->

turbines-vent-pilot-tax-and-lease-
agreement

Citizens opposed to Parishville and Hopkinton wind turbines vent PILOT, tax and lease agreement concerns to legislators

Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - 11:46
am NEW YORK
By MATT LINDSEY

CANTON -- Members of the Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation attended a St. Lawrence County Legislature meeting Monday to dispute claims made by an environmental health scientist and business developer relating to proposed wind turbines.

Four community members, Will Dailey, Lucia Dailey, Gary Snell and Lori Witherell all spoke at the meeting during a public comment period disputing claims made by Avangrid associates Christopher Ollson, an environmental health scientist, and Scott McDonald, a business developer.

Ollson and McDonald made the presentation to legislators March 27.

Avangrid, a subsidiary of Iberdrola, is heading the North Ridge Wind Farm which calls for about 40 wind towers, about 500 feet high, to be constructed on land in Hopkinton and Parishville.

The concerned citizens group opposes claims made that property values do not decrease when a wind farm moves into an area. They also say Avangrid employees have had contact with school and town officials relating to Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILOT) contracts versus taxes. Other concerns were clauses contained in lease agreements and wind power taking money away from the Robert Moses Power Dam.

Will Dailey expressed concerns about a confidentiality clause and right to terminate clause he read in a lease between a landowner and Avangrid.

He told legislators that should landowners wish to complain publicly about issues (such as noise, visual impairment or flickering the light), that they (landowners) would have to submit complaints directly to Avangrid before it could be printed for the public to see.

"You should read the lease agreements – they are a hoot," Dailey said in an interview with North Country This Week April 5. His wife, Lucia, was also interviewed.

He says the agreements do not allow landowners to terminate their lease, but includes the option for the wind company to do so.

Mr. Dailey says an Amish friend of his bought land a few years ago that had a lease agreement. The Amish man was allegedly told by an Avangrid representative that he could in fact get out of the agreement, a contradiction of what his agreement states.

"I don't know if all of these leases are the same," Mr. Dailey said. "Neighbors should

be getting together to discuss the leases and I am not sure that is happening."

Mr. Dailey's wife, Lucia, says claims that wind farms do not decrease property values are false.

"They say there is no decrease – but when property values are going up everywhere else and remaining the same near wind farms – that shows property values decrease near wind farms," she said. So although property values may not decrease on paper, with other property values rising in other parts of the state, land near wind farms does not increase in value at the same rate, according to studies the Daileys have read.

The Concerned Citizens for Rural Preservation are receiving help from other towns, including Vermont, Massachusetts and across the state, who have challenged wind farms or who are facing the same situation now.

"Other communities (that have wind farms) are coming to us with information about the health effects from the turbines," Mrs. Dailey said. "A couple in Vermont were forced to abandon their home because they couldn't stand them anymore."

She also said people from nearby Chateaugay have approached the group warning them about property values. The couple claims that they have been unable to sell their home for anything close to what they put into it, all because of wind turbines in the area..

Mrs. Dailey says that Avangrid officials have informally contacted local officials about PILOTS. According to Mrs. Dailey, Avangrid representatives stated they have not had

contact with local officials. She says Parishville Town Supervisor Rodney Votra said he was approached about PILOTS. He allegedly made the comment at a town hall meeting.

"We are pretty sure," Avangrid has had private, individual meetings with the superintendent and the Hopkinton town supervisor, she said.

Mrs. Dailey said she believes school and town officials saw PILOTS as free money if the project does happen. She says information they've gathered shows that PILOTS would not provide the same financial gain for the area as taxes would.

Staying with the financial impact on the region, Mrs. Dailey says wind turbines would have an impact on the Robert Moses hydropower dam in Massena.

Mrs. Dailey says she was going door-to-door discussing wind power and a power worker told her the power dam would have to cut back its production so it would not overload the grid.

She says studies have shown that wind turbines generally produce just 20 to 25 percent of their capacity. "It is unreliable and not that efficient." "Why take on a project that pays taxes to basically offer a subsidy to the wind company," Dailey asked.

Mr. Dailey said it was "nice of the legislators to put up with the public coming to meetings." "I am hopeful they (legislators) will bring themselves up to speed."

<http://www.fairmontsentinel.com/news/local-news/2017/04/06/citizens-oppose-wind-farm-project/>

Citizens oppose wind farm project

Apr 6, 2017

Anna Boettcher Staff

Writer MINNESOTA

BLUE EARTH — Representatives of the Coalition for Rural Property Rights spoke before the Faribault County Commission this week, presenting opposition to a proposed industrial wind energy installation in the county.

Citizens packed the commissioners room at the Courthouse to voice their concerns regarding placement of wind turbines.

The current setback for non-participating residences is 1,000 feet. The average rotor diameter of wind energy turbines has been steadily increasing, leading many citizens to believe the current setback requirement is not enough to protect non-participating lands and residences.

The Coalition requested that the board consider increasing setbacks from non-participating dwellings to 10 times the rotor diameter of the wind turbine to be installed, which is comparable to the ordinance adopted in Goodhue County.

Many of these Faribault County residents believe the placement of the wind turbines is infringing on their rights. Community members discussed several points regarding the wind turbine placement, including limitations on hunting rights, firearm use, agricultural prosperity and

residents' quality of life. They believe large-scale wind turbines can cause harm to people in the form of loss of enjoyment of property through added noise, shadow flicker and a complete change to their environment, which is almost completely out of their control. Most object to an object, roughly the size of a Boeing 747, over 400 feet in the air constantly moving within 1,000 to 1,500 feet of them, said one resident.

Carolyn Zierke offered her perspective on the proposed wind turbines:

"By allowing growers to protect their crops during the most important time in a plant's life, it means, for you as a county, an additional local revenue of over \$3.8 billion by not placing 120 turbines on productive farmland ... Why are counties overlaying an industrial zone on top of a productive agricultural zone? This county has the highest producing ground in the state ... Don't compromise the soil structure that these growers have built in this county, or the investment in tile to properly drain these productive crops that we grow, because the revenue generated from the state's highest-producing county has a rippling effect on the community."

Dan Warner also weighed in.

"Don't get mesmerized by the apple," he said. "The apple is money. These [wind turbines] are money. Please don't let the illusion of big money, generated by these big machines, cloud your judgment in protecting the residents who are forced to live around these big machines. These same people, and these same families, who populate our schools and shop in our small towns are the ones who are trying to carve out a life out there. These are the same

families that have elected you to protect them. Please don't bite the apple."

Shanelle Montana, project developer for the Rose Lake Wind Project in Faribault County, spoke on behalf of EDF and its proposed project, defending the company and its standards. Montana said the company encourages this type of conversation, hoping the citizens' questions were answered.

Monday, April 10, 2017

Conservation Groups Sue Over Proposed Turbine, OPSB Rejects Application For Offshore Wind Farm

A pair of bird conservation groups is suing the Ohio Air National Guard to halt the proposed construction of a wind turbine near Lake Erie.

The American Bird Conservancy and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory previously filed notices they intended to sue last year.

The complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia alleges the project will violate the Endangered Species, Migratory Bird Treaty, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection, and the National Environmental Policy acts.

Named as defendants are U.S. Air Force Acting Secretary Lisa Disbrow, OANG Col. Andy Stephan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Jim Kurth, and U.S.

Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The groups are requesting the court force the government to prepare a new biological opinion, obtain new permitting under the MBTA and BGEPA laws and prepare a new environmental impact statement.

The filing argues the project will "impair the interest of" the groups and individuals who observe, study, enjoy and benefit from local birds. The project, they argue, "will be built by killing, harassing or otherwise taking birds in this unique migratory area."

The groups contend that an environmental assessment from the government shows the adverse impact the project is expected to have. That assessment states one of the project's purposes as studying the impact of wind energy on factors including the deaths of birds and bats as the result of such turbines.

"In short, the stated purpose of the project is to observe how many birds (and bats) - including numerous federally protected species - the turbine will kill by being placed in a crucial migratory pathway and globally important bird area so that ANG can then 'make recommendations,'" the lawsuit reads.

The OANG previously determined the project would not have a "significant impact" on the natural environment, according to a 2016 study.

Icebreaker: The Ohio Power Siting Board rejected the application of an unrelated project to construct an offshore windfarm

in Lake Erie, saying the application lacked sufficient information.

The six-turbine, 20 megawatt wind farm would be situated eight miles off the Cleveland coast and would mark the first freshwater wind farm in the nation. But in a letter from OSPB Chairman Asim Haque, the board informed project members that the group's Feb. 1 application and its supplemental application March 13 failed to comply with administrative code.

That's because the applicants referred to two memorandums of understanding that were not included in the application materials. They include agreements on monitoring the project's impact on both fisheries and other aquatic resources and on birds and bats. (Docket)

"At such time as the applicant files in this proceeding copies of these two MOUs, signed by at least the applicant and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, staff will revisit its compliance determination," Mr. Haque wrote.

Applicants are prohibited from commencing construction on any part of the facility without a certificate from the board.

Opponents, including the aforementioned BSBO and ABC, have voiced concerns about the impact on wildlife and argued the project could be a stepping stone to thousands of turbines constructed on the lake.

"The combined scale of U.S. and Canadian wind aspirations for Lake Erie is at least 2,700 turbines, or about 9,300 MW," the

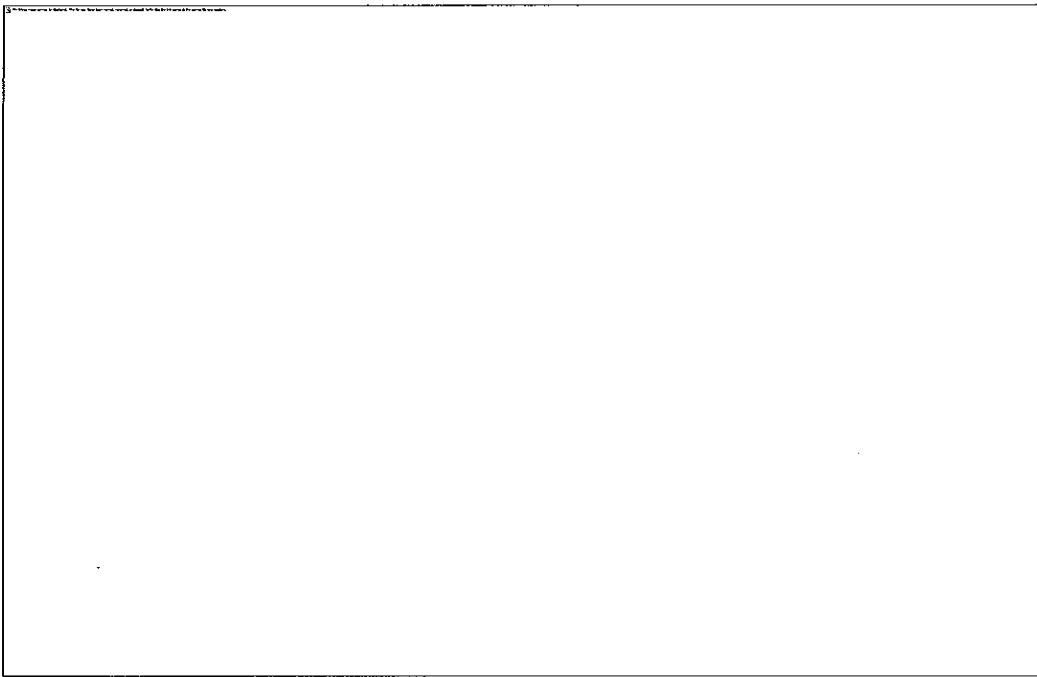
groups said in comments. "It is therefore essential that every effort be made by LEEDCo to prepare a fundamentally sound, quantitative risk assessment of mortality to bird and bat species known to be in the area, especially protected species covered by the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and their Canadian equivalents."

But proponents, including Sen. Matt Dolan (R-Chagrin Falls), say the project will drive economic and environmental investment in the region.

"Ultimately, Icebreaker could position Cleveland as a central North American hub for the emerging U.S. offshore wind industry," Sen. Dolan wrote in public testimony filed last month.

http://www.cleveland.com/neobirding/index.ssf/2017/03/birding_groups_sue_ohio_air_na.html

Birding groups sue Ohio Air National Guard to block wind- turbine at Camp Perry



The Black Swamp Bird Observatory joined the American Bird Conservancy on Monday in a federal lawsuit to block construction of a wind turbine at Camp Perry due to fears it would destroy migrating birds and bats.

(Photo courtesy of Black Swamp Bird Observatory)

By James F. McCarty The Plain Dealer
on March 27, 2017 at 4:35 PM

WASHINGTON, D.C. - State and national birding groups sued the Ohio Air National Guard on Monday, asking a federal court to block construction of a large wind turbine at Camp Perry near Lake Erie.

The Black Swamp Bird Observatory, based in Oak Harbor in Ottawa County, suspects the proposed wind turbine would violate the Endangered Species Act, posing as a lethal bird-killing machine for bald eagles and migrating songbirds and bats.

BSBO joined with the American Bird Conservancy to file the 31-page lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Washington.

A spokeswoman for the Ohio Air National Guard declined to comment.

"We're not aware of the lawsuit, and would not be able to comment on any litigation," said Stephanie Beougher of the Adjutant General's Department.

Michael Hutchins, director of ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Energy Program, called the National Guard turbine project a "disaster," and "perhaps the worst possible place for wind energy development."

The planned construction site is located less than a mile from Lake Erie and situated in one of the largest confluences of migratory birds and bats in the world, Hutchins said. In addition to numerous bald eagle nests, the lakeshore in that area provides passage for endangered species such as Kirtland's warbler and piping plover.

"We have many peer-reviewed studies documenting the impact of wind energy on birds and bats," said Kimberly Kaufman, BSBO's executive director. "And yet it takes a lawsuit to protect one of the most important migratory bird stopover habitats in the Western Hemisphere."

The birding groups are asking the court to halt the project until the National Guard obtains the proper permits and conducts environmental impact assessments required by the Endangered Species Act.

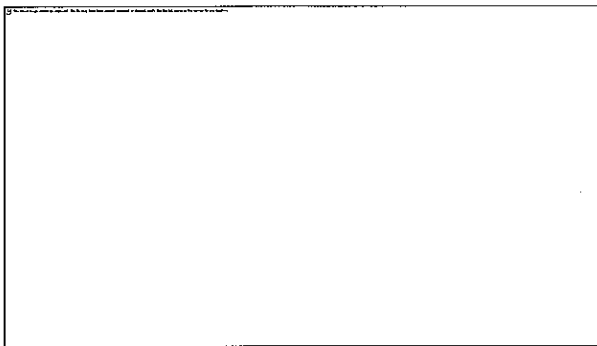
In 2014, the BSBO and Bird Conservancy successfully halted construction of the 600-

kilowatt wind turbine after determining the Air National Guard had failed to obtain the proper certifications.

The National Guard subsequently completed an environmental assessment and obtained permission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which the BSBO and Conservancy maintain are inadequate. The birding groups have cited a new radar study that shows vast numbers of migratory birds and bats move through the area, flying at altitudes that would bring them within the 198-foot rotor-swept zone of the Camp Perry turbine.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/opinion/commentary/>

Commentary: Wind turbines around the Great Lakes? A terrible idea for birds, bats



Wind Power
Jens Dresling /
AP
Wind turbines
at Flakfortet
near
Copenhagen.

Michael

Hutchins

The rush is on to build scores of large, commercial wind energy facilities in and around the Great Lakes, in Canada and the United States. From the proposed Galloo

Island and Lighthouse projects in New York to Camp Perry and Icebreaker in Ohio and Amherst Island and White Pines in Ontario, developers are looking to flood the region with renewable energy. But at what cost?

Many see renewable energy, including wind energy, as an important way to cut our dependence on fossil fuels and address global climate change. But this "green" revolution has a dark side. Collisions with wind turbines are killing hundreds of thousands of birds and bats annually. When you include collisions and electrocutions at associated power lines and towers, the number of birds killed climbs into the tens of millions.

These impacts are likely to grow along with the number of turbines and power lines constructed, a number that is increasing rapidly. American Bird Conservancy estimates that by 2050, when wind energy is projected to produce 35 percent of our electrical energy, as many as 5 million birds per year could be killed by turbines in the United States alone.

From the perspective of wildlife conservation, the Great Lakes are one of the worst possible places to put wind energy. During spring and fall, these large freshwater lakes pose a significant barrier to birds and bats during their annual migration to and from the boreal forests of Canada where they breed. Vast numbers of birds and bats, many of which migrate at night, gather along the shorelines and eventually fly along or over the lakes. Advanced radar studies conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Michigan, Ohio and New York have all confirmed the danger that large-scale wind energy

development poses to migratory birds and bats in the region.

The Great Lakes themselves are also an important habitat for water birds. Lake Erie was recently designated a Globally Important Bird Area because of the large numbers of water birds that use the lake. Large-scale commercial wind turbines have the potential to threaten or displace them.

Only through proper risk assessment, siting and post-construction monitoring can such conflicts with wildlife be avoided or contained. At present, regulations governing siting are weak at best. Paid consultants to the wind industry conduct the risk assessments and also collect and report post-construction mortality data — a direct conflict of interest. Some companies have sued to keep their data secret, making public oversight difficult if not impossible.

If any area in the United States and Canada should be avoided for wind energy development, it is the Great Lakes region, one of the world's largest confluences of migratory birds and bats. The cumulative impact of the many existing and planned projects in the region could be substantial and cannot be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

We must make clean energy a priority, but how we do it is important. Our ecologically and economically important birds and bats should not be collateral damage in our battle against climate change.

Michael Hutchins is director of the American Bird Conservancy's Bird-Smart Wind Energy campaign.

Statehouse News
April 7, 2017

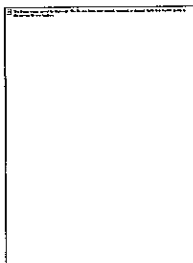
New Member Profile: Riedel To Pursue Decentralized Government, Competitive Economy

Craig Riedel had longer than most freshman lawmakers to prepare for his first day in the Ohio House - something he says he didn't take for granted.

The Defiance Republican toppled incumbent Tony Burkley in the March 2016 primary and, with no Democratic challenger, got a free pass in the general election.

He used the extra time to form relationships with his new constituents and use their feedback to hone his legislative agenda, he said.

"It was very, very beneficial for me to have that time where instead of having to worry about running in the November general election I was able to focus most of my time and energy on just getting around...and getting to know more people within my district," he said in an interview.



Rep. Riedel

Rep. Riedel, 50, represents the 82nd District, which is a conservative area of northwest Ohio covering Defiance, Paulding, Van Wert and part of Auglaize counties.

He and his constituents are most interested in policies that would rejuvenate the economy in that region and the entire state, he said.

Having worked at Nucor Corporation for 27 years, the lawmaker said he'd always been focused on attracting businesses to the state and keeping them here. However, he was inspired further through his campaigning, which included knocking on about 4,600 doors.

"We walked through parts of communities that we would have never walked through. That was very sobering to me and my wife because we didn't realize the amount of poverty we have here in northwest Ohio. It's much more severe than I ever imagined," Mr. Riedel said.

"That just reinforced my passion to help people and I think I can help people by bringing better paying jobs to Ohio and northwest Ohio."

His strategies for doing so will include allowing the free market to take control and reducing "unnecessary, burdensome" regulations on businesses, particularly when they hinder growth.

Rep. Riedel said he's a proponent of right-to-work and recently introduced legislation (HB 163) that would permit cities to opt out of prevailing wage.

"It's all about making Ohio more competitive, particularly where I live up here...there are border counties with Indiana and we are in a constant battle with the state of Indiana for good paying jobs, manufacturing jobs."

When it comes to giving control back to local communities or businesses, Rep. Riedel said: "I feel that way about everything."

"I just think we govern best when more decisions are made on a local level," he said.

Rep. Riedel said he's opposed to requiring schools to implement Common Core learning standards and will do his best to ensure taxes aren't increased at the state level.

His wife of 28 years, Danette, is his best counsel when it comes to developing policy and responding to constituent concerns, Rep. Riedel said. Both have forgone other occupations to make the General Assembly a top priority for their family.

"She's been a tremendous help to me with her consultation and her outlook on things. This really is a team effort," he said.

He and his wife have two children, both who graduated from Ohio State University. An OSU alumnus himself, Rep. Riedel said his family are faithful Buckeyes fans and are football season ticket holders.



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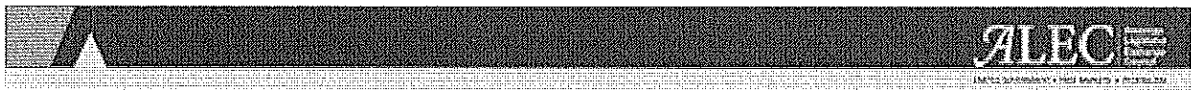
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ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech Supports Protesters in Denver

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Despite disagreements, the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech was proud to support the First Amendment rights of the protesters at our Annual Meeting in Denver, CO.

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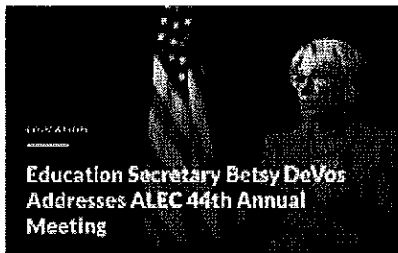


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ALEC In Denver

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Addresses ALEC 44th Annual Meeting

Betsy DeVos | Education | 44th Annual Meeting



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Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos talks education reform and bringing choice back to the states at the 44th Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado.

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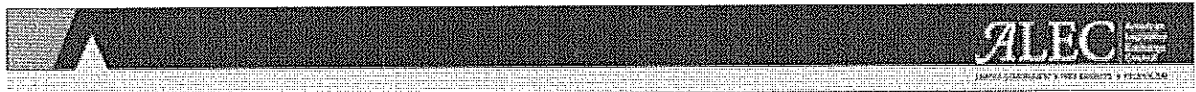
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Dear friends,

The incredible ALEC meeting in Denver last week sent many of us home with a new understanding of the power we have to affect change across the nation and deliver real results to our local communities. What we heard when we were together was a clear **opportunity agenda for 2018** and beyond. We can make a real difference right now. **By pursuing tax cuts; workforce development; labor, occupational licensing, and criminal justice reforms in our states, we can deliver measurable success and lead the nation into the 2018.**

But more powerful than our ability to legislate or innovate as individuals is our ability to deliver real results to our local communities by—with a single, strong, national voice—calling for genuine accountability and a real plan of action to deliver meaningful reforms at the federal level. During the 2016 election cycle, nearly every presidential candidate spoke about returning power to the states, and to the people.

Now, quite simply, it's up to us to take the power that's been offered. It's time to lead.

Ours is not a revolution to wrest control from the federal government—certainly there are countless cases where a federal government is good and necessary. Ours instead is a rebalancing where local state legislators who are closer to their communities and fight daily to protect hardworking taxpayers have more of a voice in the direction of our country.

Each of us has a voice. If we work together and echo one another to advance an **opportunity agenda** at the state and federal level, we can very quickly deliver real results. At the ALEC meeting, Governor Bevin called the approach "Shock and Awe." On one January day, the Kentucky Legislature sent seven bills including right-to-work and other key reforms to Governor Bevin's desk. Kentucky legislators achieved their bold goal by working together and fostering partnership between both houses and the Governor's office long in advance of the votes. You see, as Speaker Gingrich said in Denver, "If we collectively take up this challenge, we can make it dramatically easier to change America."

At the beginning of this Congress, the federal legislature also set forth several bold goals; among them

healthcare and tax reform. Because healthcare makes up one-sixth of the American economy and the taxes people pay fund everything from street lights, roads and bridges to public employee pensions and interest payments on debt, healthcare and tax reform are very bold goals. And it hasn't worked quite as we imagined. There is conflict around these reforms because there are real issues at stake. And, that's to be expected.

In Denver, Speaker Gingrich proposed a more simple, incremental approach—one that will help normal folks, not tax economists—understand the value of a tax system that protects hardworking taxpayers instead of treating them like an ATM. The most simple and immediate tax reform that we can achieve this year is a tax cut on individuals and on business.

Our plan of action starts here: **Federal tax cuts on individuals and businesses will let people keep more of their hard-earned money and help business owners reinvest in training, expansion and wage increases.** A recent poll of 500 small business owners conducted by the Job Creators Network shows how tax cuts for small businesses directly benefits hardworking citizens. A full 70 percent of small businesses would reinvest tax cuts back into their business and employees through capital investments, wage increases, new hiring and expansions. Further, nearly half of small business owners responded by saying a tax cut is the policy reform that would help their business the most.

We have just suffered through the weakest economic recovery since World War II. The American people want to work. They are leading the technology revolution and ready for a new industrial revolution focused on advanced manufacturing and innovation. But, the unbridled power of American exceptionalism has been constrained for too long by over taxation, over regulation and too much red tape.

Imagine for a moment what the country would look like if states—in partnership with Congress—truly led the way on issues like tax cuts. It's not that hard to imagine really: In the past four years, 30 states have cut taxes. Nine states have no income tax at all. No income tax states grew 111 percent faster than the nine states with the highest income tax, and private sector job growth increased 28 percent faster.

I ask you to imagine, but it really isn't that hard. States are already leading the way. Washington, D.C. simply must follow. But they won't know where to go unless we tell them. It's our time to lead. We simply can't let this opportunity pass.

So, now I'm going to ask you to do a few things. They will help you join in our plan of action and accountability that puts our local communities first. You don't have to do them right away because they will take a little time, but please commit right now to doing the following:

1. Watch or re-watch the following speeches from Annual Meeting:

- Speaker Newt Gingrich on Tax Cuts, local power and understanding Trump
- Governor Matt Bevin and Travis Brown on labor reform and workforce development
- Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta on occupational licensing and workforce development

2. Read the following briefs:

- The Jonathan Williams Tax Cut memo
- The ALEC Tax Cut Round Ups, to learn how tax cuts benefited 30 states
- The 10th Edition of *Rich States, Poor States*

3. Share this perspective with your local communities and your congressional delegation

4. Join upcoming ALEC organizing calls in September and October so we are all ready and

committed to the 2018 opportunity agenda.

Thank you for your commitment to ALEC, to our founding principles of limited government, free markets and federalism and to the United States of America.

Sincerely,


Senator Jim Buck
Indiana, District 21
2017 ALEC National Chairman

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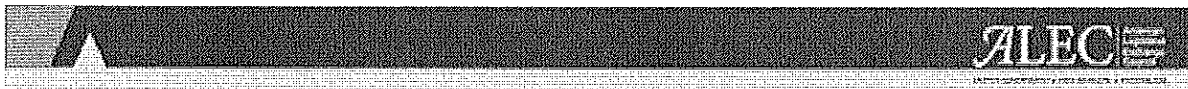
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TELL YOUR COLLEAGUES: On nationally syndicated NPR show The1A yesterday, Reid Wilson of *The Hill* redirected a question about ALEC "secrecy" by saying "It's funny. They're not so secretive anymore." From 33:13 to 34:28 he goes on to accurately discuss what ALEC does and how ALEC works. Earlier in the segment he discusses the pitfalls of poorly drafted ballot initiatives versus policy drafted by professional legislative drafting lawyers. Please listen to this segment.
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SHARE THIS STORY: A recent Associated Press article from the ALEC Annual Meeting called ALEC one of the most prominent conservative groups in the country and profiled the growth and need for the American City County Exchange. This is an excellent story to like, post and share with your colleagues at the local and state level.

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